

## Summit supports Ghali for new U.N. term

CAIRO (Agencies) — In an effort to back one of their own, Arab leaders meeting in Cairo agreed Sunday to support the renomination of Boutros Ghali as secretary-general of the United Nations. The decision puts them on a collision course with the United States, which has threatened to use its Security Council veto, if necessary, to prevent a second term for the 73-year-old Egyptian diplomat. His current term expires Dec. 31. Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa told a news conference after the two-day meeting that "the general feeling is that the support of the summit is for the renomination of Boutros Ghali." Mr. Musa said that Egypt was urging U.S. officials to "review their position." Iraq was the only Arab state not invited to the summit but Baghdad's most influential newspaper Babel on Sunday voiced support for Mr. Ghali, the man responsible for implementation of 1990-91 Gulf crisis-related United Nations resolutions against Iraq.

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# Arab summit concludes, promising to open new page in Arab relations

Communique warns Israel of setback to normalisation if it does not respect principles for peace



His Majesty King Hussein attends the closing session of the Arab summit in Cairo on Sunday (Petra photo)

## For Jordan, Cairo summit was a win

By George Hawatmeh

EXCEPT for failing to achieve a breakthrough in relations with Kuwait, the Arab Summit conference which concluded in Cairo yesterday gave Jordan everything it wanted and more, and on this basis it is being considered by the Jordanian leadership a "true success."

His Majesty King Hussein described the summit yesterday as a "new beginning" for joint Arab work and a "clear message... that there will be a greater measure of cooperation among all Arab countries for the sake of confronting the challenges of the future."

In explaining the King's satisfaction with the deliberations and outcome of the summit the prime minister, Abdul Karim Kabariti, referred to the resolutions adopted by the Arab leaders

and to the language used in the final communique.

The fact that this was the first time that the Arab heads of state or their representatives have met in six years is in itself an achievement and a fresh start for Arab solidarity and coordination, Mr. Kabariti said. "Since His Majesty and Jordan have always been in the forefront of those who strive for bringing the Arabs together, and encouraging them to work and build together, we regard the summit as an important step towards achieving that goal."

In addition, the prime minister went on to say, it was the first time that an Arab summit gave its blessing and support for the peace process with Israel, including the Jordan-Israeli treaty and the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles. "This is an institutional support whose value cannot be over-

emphasised," Mr. Kabariti told Jordanian newspaper editors who covered the summit. "Besides, the Arab leaders expressed no opposition to 'normalisation,' as expectations for the conference went before its convening, unless Israel renounced its commitments under the peace agreements" which the former Labour government made with the Palestinians.

"Even the Libyan leader, Colonel Muammar Qadhafi, put his signature to these resolutions, which is in itself a breakthrough," the prime minister said.

Thus the summit left the door wide open for the new Israeli administration not only to live up to its obligations but also to reach accords with Syria and Lebanon based on the principle of exchanging land for peace, the prime minister said. Jordan in fact believes that

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will respect Israel's commitments under the Oslo deals and he will work for peace both "because he told us he would," as a senior official put it, and just as importantly because there is no alternative for the peace option in the region, as the King told journalists yesterday.

The Arab summit has "convened its own message," King Hussein told the journalists, in allusion to the fact that the moderate Arab camp led by Egypt and Jordan had won the day in not closing door to or complicating further efforts in Arab-Israeli peace-making.

As to improving strained ties with the Syrians, "we are hopeful and confident that the two meetings His Majesty had with President Assad on

## King: New beginning for collective action

CAIRO (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said Sunday that his meeting with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Cairo on Saturday gave the two leaders a "chance to have a brotherly and frank discussion and the results were very good."

Speaking to the press shortly before the final session of the Arab summit meeting, King Hussein expressed appreciation to President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt for arranging the meeting with President Assad.

The talks were frank and held in a brotherly atmosphere, the King said.

Asked whether he believes Syria will respond to Jordan's request to stop support for anti-Jordanian organisations, the King said: "We had some problems concerning infiltration into Jordan for carrying out terrorist operations to destabilise the country's security. I believe that the Syrian leadership at the highest level will take the necessary measures to prevent such operations in the future."

"I believe that there is no going back on the peace process and the change in government in Israel is a change of the person of the prime minister, and that all signs indicate that Israel will remain committed to all the previous agreements that have been concluded with the Arabs," the King said.

"If we have any credibility in the world, we will use it to achieve progress and to attain a just peace," added the King.

King Hussein on Sunday received in his residence Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi and discussed with him bilateral relations and the summit results.

The King also received at the Conference Palace Lebanese President Elias Hrawi and discussed with him bilateral relations and the summit's resolutions. The meetings were attended by Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti, Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh and the King's military secretary, His Royal Highness Talal Ben Mohammad.

The King also received Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan and reviewed with him bilateral relations and means of enhancing them, in addition to means to revive Arab solidarity.

The King also received Oman's Deputy Prime Minister Fahd Ben Mohammad Al Said and exchanged views with him on issues of common concern.

On Saturday King Hussein received in his residence

"My impression is positive, especially as every issue discussed won the attention of all leaders and thus we arrived at positive results," he said.

(Continued on page 7)

## Highlights of communique

THE 21 ARAB countries at the landmark summit in Cairo spelled out their peace demands to Israel in a final declaration issued Sunday as well as addressing issues such as terrorism, Iraq and the Lockerbie affair.

Here are the main points of the declaration:

**Peace process:** The summit called for a resumption of Arab-Israeli peace talks without delay on the basis of U.N. resolutions and the principle of land-for-peace.

Israel must withdraw from the Golan Heights, South Lebanon and occupied Palestinian territories including Arab East Jerusalem. It must also allow the establishment of a Palestinian state with Arab Jerusalem as its capital.

from the West Bank and Gaza Strip; the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon. The leaders also called for a halt to Israeli settlement activities in the occupied lands, adding that existing settlements should be removed.

**Iraq:** The communique said Iraq could not resume its position in Arab ranks until it halts all aggression against its neighbours and fulfills U.N. resolutions. They held the Iraqi regime solely responsible for the suffering of the Iraqi people under U.N. sanctions. But they opposed any action that would partition the country.

**Lebanon:** The summit supported Lebanon in the face of Israeli aggression and called on the Jewish state to pay

compensation for the damage it has caused. It called on the international community to secure an end to Israel's occupation of the south.

**Arab unity:** The leaders affirmed their commitment to Arab unity and initiated plans for an Arab free trade zone, an Arab justice court and a mechanism to solve inter-Arab disputes.

**Arab solidarity:** Leaders said they were determined to strengthen Arab solidarity, based on respect for each country's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and non-interference in their internal affairs.

(Continued on page 7)

## Papandreou passes away

ATHENS (Agencies) — Former Greek Premier and veteran socialist leader Andreas Papandreou died Sunday, drawing a curtain on a tumultuous political life marked by prison, corruption scandals and political setbacks.

The 77-year-old, dogged by serious health problems over the past 12 months, died from heart failure at 2:30 p.m. (2330 GMT) at home in the Athens suburb of Ekali, radio and television reported.

His widow Dimitra Liani Papandreou, a 42-year-old former airline hostess, was with him when he died.

News of his death plunged the nation into mourning, with hundreds of Greeks gathering outside Athens' Orthodox cathedral to pay tribute as his body arrived, accompanied by his widow and leading members of the Pan-Hellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) he founded in 1974.

"Today we are orphans," said Labour Minister Evangelos Yannopoulos, a long-time Papandreou supporter.

Scores of women carrying red roses, the socialist symbol, and olive branches flocked around the cathedral, as tearful party faithful attempted to touch the flag-draped coffin as it arrived. The body will lie in state in a chapel

next to the cathedral until Wednesday.

The executive bureau of the PASOK party held an urgent meeting to review the date for a party congress to elect his successor.

PASOK was scheduled to hold a four-day congress starting on Thursday to elect a party vice-president who would have taken on some of the ailing Papandreou's authority.

Party sources said the executive bureau was debating whether to postpone the congress for a few days or go ahead as planned.

Prime Minister Costas Simitis, who took over after Mr. Papandreou resigned in poor health in January, and Interior Minister Akis Tsohatzopoulos, a trusted Papandreou lieutenant, are the top candidates to replace him as PASOK president.

Some PASOK officials said the clear division between the two men might prompt the nomination of a compromise candidate.

Mr. Simitis, a reformer who opposed Mr. Papandreou's policies, wants to control and unite PASOK before national elections next year.

Mr. Tsohatzopoulos, a Papandreou confidant, has

(Continued on page 7)

## Netanyahu rejects Arab call as unilateral demands

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday accused Arab leaders of making demands that he said were out of step with the peace process and could threaten Israel's security if implemented.

In a prepared speech, Mr. Netanyahu reacted to a communique by a summit of 21 Arab League members in Cairo which called on Israel to yield more land or risk a halt to the normalisation process.

"Threats to security are incompatible with negotiations," Mr. Netanyahu said.

"For the process to continue successfully and productively this threat must be removed. This is the most elementary, fundamental requirement for talks about coexistence and peace."

Mr. Netanyahu went on to say that the peace process "cannot be made hostage to other prior conditions" — a reference the Arab demands that the new government agree to trade more land for peace.

Foreign Minister David Levy went even further, saying that "peace is not achieved by dictates and a style that can be interpreted as a threat."

The summit was called after last month's election of the Likud Party leader, who ran a hardline campaign promoting policies that

appeared aimed at stalling negotiations with the Palestinians and Syria.

Chilling expectations of far-reaching compromise raised by the previous Labour government, policy guidelines released by Mr. Netanyahu's government last week rule out a return of the Golan Heights to Syria, a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza and any compromise over Jerusalem.

The Arab summit communique said the Arabs would have to react in kind if Israel did not follow through on the land-for-peace principle and warned of a return to "the whirlpool of tension" if Mr. Netanyahu slowed down the peace process.

The communique's "hard-line, bellicose tone... creates the wrong atmosphere," Zelman Shoval, a top Netanyahu aide and former ambassador to Washington, told the Associated Press.

Mr. Shoval added that the land-for-peace formula "is partly immoral... peace is something everyone gains at, not something to bargain for by forcing one side to give."

Mr. Shoval said the test for the peace process would come in two areas: negotiations with Palestinians on a final settlement and the normalisation of relations with Arab states, particularly those in North Africa and the Gulf states.

If the Palestinians placed

contentious issues like the future of Jerusalem and of Jewish settlements "at the top of the agenda... the whole process could break down," he warned.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, however, told Cable News Network that he was "very optimistic" that Mr. Netanyahu would make bold steps for peace, recalling that it was Likud's Menachem Begin who made peace with Egypt in 1979 and withdrew fully from the Sinai Peninsula.

On Friday, Mr. Levy issued a soothing message, suggesting Israeli flexibility on the Golan Heights and a readiness to meet with Yasser Arafat. Questions arose, however, about the degree to which his comments represented the new government's policy.

While Mr. Levy's comments may have calmed some Arab fears, they angered Israelis living on the Golan Heights and caused concern among members of the Third Way Party, a coalition partner in the new government.

"Such declarations... tell Syria Israel is ready for concessions even before negotiations begin, and anger Golan residents, who believed your promises that your government would keep the Golan," Yehuda Wolman, head of the Golan regional

(Continued on page 7)

See full text of communique on page 7

Israel: Arab leaders affirmed their commitment to peace. They warned Israel's new headline government that if it does not abide by the land-for-peace formula and carry out previous commitments, Arab states will "reconsider steps taken in the context of the peace process vis-a-vis Israel." They also called for "the resumption of talks on all tracks."

**Jerusalem:** Arab leaders endorsed creation of an independent Palestinian state with Arab East Jerusalem as its capital.

**Occupied land:** Israel was urged to withdraw totally

from the West Bank and Gaza Strip; the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon. The leaders also called for a halt to Israeli settlement activities in the occupied lands, adding that existing settlements should be removed.

**Iraq:** The communique said Iraq could not resume its position in Arab ranks until it halts all aggression against its neighbours and fulfills U.N. resolutions. They held the Iraqi regime solely responsible for the suffering of the Iraqi people under U.N. sanctions. But they opposed any action that would partition the country.

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(Continued on page 7)



## 22 killed in Kabul rocket attack

KABUL (AFP) — Twenty-two civilians were killed and 26 injured in the deadliest rocket attack on the embattled Afghan capital in seven months, officials and residents said Sunday.

At least 15 people died on the spot when two rockets struck a crowded bus stop and a school in the city's southern suburbs, and seven died later in hospital, witnesses and doctors said.

Defence officials blamed the attack on the Taliban militia which is encircling the capital. But there was no confirmation of who was behind the eight rocket barrage late Saturday.

Some 26 people were admitted to the Red Cross-administered Cart-e-Seh hospital following the attack on the Darul Aman area of the besieged capital.

"Everywhere you looked you saw appalling carnage after the rocket hit at the bus stop," said eye witness Mohammad Sabr, who runs a shop near the spot where eight people died instantly.

"They didn't know who to help first. Two of my shopkeeper colleagues were killed straightaway, as were a large group of residents who were waiting for a bus," he added.

Another of the Soviet-built BM-12 rockets landed outside a nearby school, spraying shards of twisted shrapnel into classrooms

packed with teenage students, witnesses said. Seven pupils, aged between 15 and 18, died instantly while at least 10 were injured when the rockets exploded during lessons, witnesses told AFP.

Red Cross sources said the hospital was "overwhelmed" by the number of casualties being brought in, but added there were enough beds and staff to treat them.

Large pools of blood could still be seen Sunday on the bare concrete floor of the school, while body pieces and flesh were till plastered to the building's walls and ceiling.

Officials Sunday ordered the immediate closure of the school which lies three kilometers from Kabul's most active frontline, staff at the deserted school said.

The barrage was the worst since an air raid by Taliban jets last November which killed 42 civilians, officials and locals said.

People living near the frontline, where Kabul government troops have been locked in a tense standoff with the Islamic Taliban for nine months, said the attack was the worst they remember.

"We get rockets and shells here everyday, but we are seldom so unlucky as to lose so many of our brothers at once," shopkeeper Mohammad Jan

said. Defence officials blamed the attack on the Taliban, saying it was a reaction to the warriors' battlefield setbacks.

"This is a renewed act of brutality committed by the Taliban after their severe defeat in the southeastern frontline (of Kabul) a week ago," a Defence Ministry spokesman said.

No independent confirmation of who was responsible for the salvo was, however, immediately available.

The attack comes just four days before Hezb-e-Islami leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar is expected to enter Kabul to assume the post of prime minister.

His expected arrival follows a May 24 pact between the government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani and the Hezb which observers say was aimed at creating a military alliance to thwart the Taliban.

Government forces and the Taliban last month pounded each other with heavy weapons and jets southeast of here during a weeklong firefight.

The Taliban have gained control of more than half of Afghanistan after emerging from Koranic schools in November 1994.

They have vowed to topple Mr. Rabbani and enforce Islamic law.

## Iran slams 'sick' human rights envoys

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran's prison chief, Assadollah Lajevardi, on Sunday described human rights inspectors as "sick people" who based their reports on preconceptions not realities.

"We are always ready to open our prisons to inspection because we have nothing to hide," Mr. Lajevardi said in an interview with the Jomhuri Islami newspaper.

"But representatives of human rights organisations are sick people and there is nothing you can do to a sick person," he said.

The Iranian official said human rights were a "political issue" in the West, adding that rights organisations "come and see the realities, the positive points, but later they write a report based on their preconceptions."

But Mr. Lajevardi described the latest report on Iran prepared by U.N. envoy Maurice Copithorne as "somewhat positive, although it lacked the whole truth."

Mr. Copithorne, a former Canadian diplomat who visited here in January, said in his provisional conclusions that Iran continued to ignore the fundamental idea of human rights offering the individual protection independent of political considerations.

But he added that a wide-ranging debate had opened up in Iranian society on the issue, which could "arguably be a prelude for significant change."

Mr. Copithorne was the first member of the U.N. Human Rights Commission to travel to Iran since 1991, when his predecessor Reynaldo Galindo Pohl was declared persona non grata after reaching what Iran considered to be biased conclusions.

Mr. Lajevardi put Iran's prison population at around 11,000, 53.5 per cent of whom are held on drug charges. The figure reported by officials in 1994 was 91,000. He said there were no political prisoners, but "a few" members of the armed opposition groups were held on "charges of terrorism and armed robbery."

The official added that the use of violence against prisoners was "absolutely forbidden" in Iranian jails and that a range of cultural and religious programmes had been introduced to rehabilitate inmates.

For example he said 2,300 of prisoners have learned the Koran by heart. The authorities often pardon or reduce sentences of prisoners who manage to memorise all or parts of the Holy Book.

## Qadhafi keeps his maverick image alive

CAIRO (R) — At the first Arab summit in six years Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi kept alive his reputation for bold gestures and outspoken remarks.

He broke a U.N. Ban on flights from Libya by flying in, refused to shake hands with Yasser Arafat and then criticised all his fellow Arab leaders.

"If anybody else said the things he did there would have been a big problem," said a senior delegate who attended the closed evening session at the Cairo summit.

"He accused everybody of something and I do not think anyone clapped when he finally finished. It was a bit too much, too long, but no one really was offended because we all know Col. Qadhafi very well by now."

Col. Qadhafi's remarks amused almost everyone and many delegates and heads of state were described as laughing throughout his speech.

The United Nations imposed an air and arms embargo on Libya in 1992 for refusing to handover to the United States or Britain two suspects in connection with a 1988 mid-air explosion of a Pan Am flight over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 270 people.

But Col. Qadhafi said he flew in for the summit straight from Tripoli, flouting the flight ban. He made clear he intends to fly out on Sunday.

Col. Qadhafi next refused to shake hands with Arafat at the summit and in an impromptu speech that ran far past the agreed time accused him of disappointing Arabs with his 1993 peace deal with Israel.

"He said King Hussein (of Jordan) 'let down' Arafat and Syria, while Arafat 'let down' all the Arabs," said a senior delegate who attended the session.

## Militants raid Libyan police base, eight killed

SALLOUM (AFP) — Eight Libyan policemen were killed last week in an attack by Muslim militants in the eastern region of Derna. Libyans crossing the border into Egypt told AFP on Sunday.

"Libyan fundamentalists attacked a police training school in Derna last Thursday, leaving eight dead before fleeing into the mountainous region of Jabal Al-Akhdar," 700 kilometres east of Tripoli, one traveller said.

"Libyan security services have fanned out in the region to hunt down the attackers and the coastal road from Tripoli to Benghazi was closed for several hours," he said.

The attack is the third reported incidence of militant violence in Libya since the beginning of the year, and the attacks have tended to be in

the same region around Benghazi on Libya's eastern Mediterranean coast.

In late April, the "Islamic Warriors group" said it had killed two soldiers and five policemen in clashes over the previous weeks in the region of Wadi Al-Anjil.

Clashes between militants and police took place around Derna, in late March, leaving 26 dead, according to diplomatic sources in Tripoli and travellers crossing at Egypt's Salloom border post.

But Tripoli insisted the violence came amid a police raid against drug smugglers in the region leaving several dead.

On March 9, the Islamic Warriors Group claimed there had been a failed assassination attempt by militants against Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi last February in Libya's administrative capital, Syrte.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Israel court delays challenge to polls

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — A court on Sunday adjourned until next month hearings on a Labor Party demand that the election of rightwing leader Benjamin Netanyahu as Israel's prime minister be annulled due to vote fraud. The district court met briefly early Sunday on the case and then adjourned further deliberations until July 4. The Labour Party demanded the May 29 election, be annulled after its investigation indicated irregularities concerning 42,000 ballots, more than Mr. Netanyahu's 30,000-vote margin of victory over incumbent Labour Premier Shimon Peres. Labour official Ranan Cohen, who was vice president of the election commission, said his party's investigation of 60 test ballot boxes showed that 1.5 per cent of the votes cast were invalid. If the pattern extends to all 7,000 polling stations, this would represent 42,000 invalid ballots, he said. The irregularities included ballots cast in the name of voters who were dead or outside the country on election day and incidents where there were more votes cast in some polling stations than the number of registered voters.

### Kuwait seeks league initiative over POWs

CAIRO (AFP) — The crown prince of Kuwait, Sheikh Saad Al Abdallah Al Sabah, asked the Arab League on Sunday to keep up its efforts to win the freedom of hundreds of Kuwaiti POWs it says have been held in Iraq since 1990. Sheikh Saad met with league Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid to discuss the "launching of a new effective action by the league in this humanitarian matter," the prince told journalists afterwards. Abdul Meguid said the league would make a new push "in the matter, which is humanitarian not political in nature (and) constitutes a sticking point in Kuwaiti-Iraqi reconciliation." Sheikh Saad was in Cairo for Arab summit, to which Iraq was the only country not invited. The summit's final declaration, due to be issued Sunday, will "express Arabs' concern in solving the problem of Kuwaiti prisoners of war," Dr. Abdul Meguid said. "Arab reconciliation has marked some progress, but there are still some mistakes which must be corrected," Dr. Abdul Meguid said.

### Veteran of Iran-Iraq war dies at 130

TEHRAN (AFP) — An Iranian man who had voluntarily fought against Iraq for eight months during the two countries' 1980-1988 war has died at the age of 130, Iran's official news agency IRNA reported Sunday. Amrollah Rahmamanian, a farmer who enjoyed good health until his death, was "highly proud" of his stint "at the front during the sacred defense," IRNA said referring to the bloody eight-year war. He is survived by his 95-year-old wife and 95 grandchildren and great grandchildren, it added. Islamic devotees of all ages volunteered to fight in the war. Iran was repeatedly criticised by international human rights organizations for sending minors to the front.

### Hebrew-language TV channel to debut

MIAMI (AFP) — A Miami-based company has entered into an agreement to broadcast Israeli television shows in major U.S. and Canadian cities. Narrow bridge communications announced it had entered into multi-year exclusive agreements with the Israeli Broadcasting Authority and Tel Ad Television studios to broadcast more than 4,000 hours per year of original Israeli television programming. The Hebrew programmes with English subtitles will be the primary content on a new Israeli international television channel to be carried by cable and satellite broadcasting premium channels in major metropolitan areas. "It will be as if you're in Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and turn on the television. We'll have regular daily newscasts," said Richard Bernstein, president of Israel International Television Corporation, the general partner of Narrow Bridge Communications, said in a statement. The Israeli Broadcast Authority and Tel Ad will provide sufficient programming to Narrow Bridge Communications to support the 13-hour-per-day, seven-day-per-week Israeli international television channel. The company did not give a date for the channel's start-up.

### Austrian chancellor on Saudi visit

DUBAI (R) — Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky has arrived in Saudi Arabia on an official visit, the official Saudi press agency reported. It said Mr. Vranitzky and his delegation were met by Saudi Defence Minister Prince Sultan at Jeddah airport late on Saturday.

## Somali militias step up fighting after 11 killed

MOGADISHU (R) — Fighting between rival militias intensified in Mogadishu on Sunday after at least 11 people were killed in weekend clashes between supporters of faction leader Mohammad Farah Aided and two other warlords.

Hospital officials said nine people were killed and 16 wounded in fighting between General Aided's militia and supporters of Muse Sudi Yahow, who is allied to Ali Mahdi Mohammad, on Saturday and fighting between them intensified on Sunday.

Two people were killed, including eight-year-old Abdurrahman Hussein, and three were wounded on Sunday after a 120 mortar bomb fired by militiamen loyal to Osman Hassan Ali Ato hit a house in an area controlled by Gen. Aided in divided Mogadishu.

Somali sources said that Gen. Aided militiamen were fighting on two fronts, against fighters allied to Ali Mahdi and those loyal to Mr. Ato, a former ally and financier of Gen. Aided.

## World Zoroastrians to set up Tehran office

TEHRAN (R) — The world's Zoroastrian religious community ended its first congress in Iran since the Islamic revolution in 1979 and agreed to establish a permanent office in Tehran.

"Since all Zoroastrians have special regards for Iran, the birthplace of Ashou Zoroaster, we agree to establish the permanent office of our world congress in Tehran," a statement said late on Saturday at the end of a four-day meeting.

Congress President Mahyar Ardeshiri, a 63-year-old Iranian surgeon, said the gathering of 800 delegates from 11 countries at the sixth world Zoroastrian congress intended to preserve the Zoroastrian identity.

The teachings of the Persian Prophet Zoroaster are followed by some 200,000 people, mostly in Iran and India. Scholars of the faith place the date of his birth between the 10th and sixth centuries BC.

The Islamic republic recognises Zoroastrianism, Persia's main religion before the Muslim conquest in the seventh century, as well as Judaism and Christianity as official minority religions and grants them religious and political rights.

Tehran has denied repeated charges by Western governments and human rights

groups that it discriminates against religious minorities.

Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in a rare reference to Zoroastrianism, said on Thursday: "It is a matter of honour for our nation that Iran is the birthplace of Zoroastrianism."

Mr. Ardeshiri told Reuters that Iranian authorities had cooperated "beyond imagination" with congress organisers. "The general situation of Zoroastrians improved after and because of the Islamic revolution," Mr. Freydyun Joneidi, a Zoroastrian scholar, said. "Emphasising religion made Zoroastrians pay more attention to their own identity. Also the Muslim majority observed as a religious duty the approving attitude of the country's leadership on Zoroastrians, an example of which is this congress."

A congress participant who asked not to be named said that since Zoroastrians were restricted to one ethnic group they posed no threat to Iran's Islamic majority and thus were tolerated by the government.

Asked about expectations of the Zoroastrian community in Iran, Mr. Joneidi said: "Above all we expect equal professional access, along with our Muslim brothers, into army, judiciary and administrative positions."

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 773111-19	
15:00	Bonkers (cartoon)
15:30	Richie Rich
16:00	Animals of the Mediterranean
17:00	News Flash
17:02	Ordly
17:15	L'Ecole Des Fans
18:00	Magazine - Thalassa
19:00	News in French
19:15	Magazine - Cinq Sur Cinq
19:30	News Headlines
19:35	The Nanny
20:30	Rock Around the World
21:10	100 Years of Capitalism in Korea
22:00	News in English
22:25	The Bold and the Beautiful
23:10	Hawaii 5-0
23:59	Maltok

PRAYER TIMES	
03:51	Fajr
05:26	(Sunrise) Duha
12:38	Dhuhr
16:18	'Asr
19:49	Maghreb
21:24	'Isha

CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church	Sweifeh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church	Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church	Tel. 624590

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Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church	Tel. 661757
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The Latter-Day Saints	Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth	Tel. 775691
The Evangelical Local Church	in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking	
Latin Catholics Parish	Tel. 614190

WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the	Department of Meteorology.
Relative warm weather conditions	will prevail with temperatures
above average by 2-4	degrees centigrade and winds
northwesterly moderate.	In Aqaba, winds will be northerly
moderate and seas choppy	Min./Max. temp.
Amman.....	18/33
Aqaba.....	23/38
Deserts.....	16/35

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Jordan Valley .....	22/38
Yesterday's high temperatures:	Amman 31, Aqaba 36 Humidity
readings: Amman 30 per	cent, Aqaba 20 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	617101
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Dept.	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water & Sewerage Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Reparis	623101
Abdali Tel. Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
J. Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Co.	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-53200

NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Khalidoun Kloub	816715
Dr. Nidal Al As'ad	751672
Dr. Issam Al Asmar	890504
Dr. Osama Al Hussein	847289
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asema pharmacy	637055
Naioukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660
Naioukh pharmacy	847632
IRBID:	
Dr. Ahmad Qanu	281484
Al Quds pharmacy	(-)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Samir Al Lawzi	903469
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue	630341

HOSPITAL	
AMMAN:	
Hussien Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity	644281/6
Akileh Maternity	64241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	607071
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
IRBID:	
Princess Basma Hospital	(02)75555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)727275
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital	(02)247100
AMMAN:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111

HOSPITAL	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre .....	813813/37
Khalidi Maternity.....	644281/6
Akileh Maternity.....	642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity .....	642362
Malhas, J. Amman .....	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani .....	607071
Shmeisani Hospital .....	669133







# Hashimoto apologises for Japan's war sex slaves

CHEJU ISLAND, South Korea (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto apologised Sunday "from the bottom of my heart" for the South Korean sex slaves forced to serve the Japanese army during World War II.

His apology came after talks with South Korean President Kim Young-Sam on the resort island of Cheju intended to ease strained ties dating from Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule over the Korean peninsula.

"From the bottom of my heart I apologise and I am regretful," Mr. Hashimoto said in a reply to a question at a news conference over the treatment of so-called "comfort women."

"At no other time has women's honour and dignity been hurt more than in this case," he said.

Historians say up to 200,000 women — mostly Koreans but also from the Philippines, Indonesia, China and the Netherlands — were pressed into sexual servitude in front-line brothels as

Japanese forces swept through East Asia.

The sex slaves have become the focus for lingering anger against Japan. Mr. Hashimoto said he could not imagine the pain Japan had inflicted on the Korean people.

"For example, how people's names had to be changed to Japanese names was something I knew nothing about in school. I cannot imagine the pain that has been inflicted on the Korean people by that kind of act."

A small group of South Korean women, including two former "comfort women", scuffled with riot police near the Cheju hotel where the summit took place.

"Hashimoto, go back to Japan" one of the former sex slaves, Shim Mi-Ja, shouted as her group tried to break through a police roadblock and march towards the Shilla Hotel.

"The summit is meaningless unless the Japanese government apologises

and compensates us," she said.

Tokyo has said it would pay \$18,500 to each of about 300 surviving comfort women out of a private fund. But the women demand official reparation payments.

A Japanese Foreign Ministry official said the two leaders did not touch on the "comfort women" issue at the summit.

Mr. Hashimoto and Mr. Kim side-stepped another emotional issue over ownership of a group of uninhabited islets, called Takeshima in Japan and Tokto in South Korea.

They simply reiterated an earlier agreement to discuss the ownership issue separately from the issue of fishing rights and the establishment of 200 nautical mile economic zones around their country's coasts.

Both sides used soccer to smooth over the cracks in their ties. They have been chosen to co-host the 2002 World Cup.

Mr. Kim said they agreed co-hosting the World Cup "is a very desirable thing," and added: "We expect that friendly relations between the peoples of our two countries would be deepened by the successful staging of Asia's first World Cup."

The two leaders also pledged to cooperate to press North Korea to agree to four-nation talks involving the two Koreas, the United States and China aimed at replacing a truce that ended the 1950-53 Korean War with a peace deal.

"We have agreed to cooperate closely so that North Korea will accept the four-party meeting as soon as possible," Mr. Kim said.

"The two leaders share the view that the situation in North Korea including food shortages is very severe," the Japanese Ministry official said. "They believe that the food shortages are based on North Korea's structural factors."

Last year's floods in North Korea, the worst in a century, devastated much of the nation's arable land and pushed the Communist state to the brink of famine.



Seventy-three-year-old Shim Mi-Ja, a former South Korea comfort woman, argues with plainclothes police during an anti-Japan protest Sunday. Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and South Korean President Kim Young-sam held a summit meeting on bilateral issues on Cheju Island in South Korea (Reuters photo)

## Hasina sworn in as Bangladesh premier

DHAKA (AFP) — Sheikh Hasina Wajed was sworn in Sunday as predominantly Muslim Bangladesh's second woman prime minister, to lead this politically volatile country into the next century.

Bangladesh President Abdur Rahman Biswas administered the oath of office to Mrs. Hasina and her 19-member council of ministers at a sober ceremony in the Bangabhaban Presidential Palace.

Mrs. Hasina, 49, led her Awami League to victory in the June 12 general elections after a gruelling 20-year stint in the opposition.

The League, which also celebrated the 47th anniversary of its founding Sunday, has won a five-year term in office.

But it faces threats from its main rival, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), which has said it will challenge in court the election results in 111 constituencies. The BNP, led by former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, boycotted the swearing in.

Mrs. Hasina boycotted Mrs. Khaleda's swearing-in ceremony in 1991.

The Awami League, headed by Bangladesh founding leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was ousted from power in a bloody coup in 1975, four years after leading the country to independence from Pakistan.

Turn by a leadership crisis after Rahman was assassinated in the putsch, the league remained in the opposition until this month's elections.

Mrs. Hasina has offered an olive branch to her rivals to help run a government of national consensus.

The Awami League emerged after the election as the single largest party in parlia-

ment, with 147 seats. The support of the Jatiya Party (JP) and the lone seat of a left-wing party have given the League an absolute majority.

Mrs. Hasina, 49, was unanimously elected party chief by the rank-and-file in 1982, a year after she returned from exile. She and her husband, a well-known scientist, have two children.

The League's genesis lay in a leadership dispute, when senior Bengali leaders were dropped from the provincial government in what was then east Pakistan.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Khaleda's BNP postponed its scheduled swearing in of new members of parliament Sunday afternoon, although the party has said it plans to take its seats in parliament.

"We have yet to decide when we will take oath as MPs... and will go to court with our demands for new elections in 111" of the 300 constituencies, Mrs. Khaleda was quoted as saying by the Bhorer Kagoj daily.

JP chief and jailed former President Hussain Mohammad Ershad was paroled briefly Sunday, joining his wife and 24 other party members to be sworn in as members of parliament. Gen. Ershad returned to jail six hours after being released.

Anwar Hossain Monju, the JP secretary-general, has been made a full minister in the new cabinet and was present at the prime minister's swearing in, but the rest of the JP boycotted Mrs. Hasina's ceremony because former President Ershad was not invited.

Thirty seats reserved for women will be elected by the MPs once parliament convenes. Most of these are expected to represent the League given its majority.



Former president Hossain Mohammad Ershad (right) and his wife Begum Roushan Ershad lead newly elected deputies of their Jatiya Party during an oath-taking ceremony at the parliament in Dhaka Sunday. Gen. Ershad was granted a four-hour parole to come out of jail and attend the swearing in. Gen. Ershad, deposed in 1990, has been in jail for five years following convictions on corruption charges. He has appealed against the convictions (Reuters photo)

## Major's party cuts labour lead to 19 points

LONDON (R) — Britain's ruling Conservatives have cut the opinion poll lead enjoyed by the opposition Labour Party to 19 points in June from 25 points in May, according to an NOP poll published in the Sunday Times.

Support for Labour has slipped to 50 per cent from 52 per cent in May, while that for the Conservatives has risen to 31 per cent from 27 per cent.

"With Labour's lead on economic competence — who people trust to run the economy — down from 20 points to 15, the results suggest that economic factors are starting to influence voters in the Tories' (Conservatives' favour," the paper said.

The Liberal Democrats were trailing with 15 per cent support, down from 17 per cent in May.

A general election must be called by mid-1997.

NOP interviewed 1,580 people in Britain on June 20.

That was before the Florence summit at which Britain and its European Union partners settled, for now, their dispute over beef sales and Britain's blocking of EU business.

The poll suggested that Prime Minister John Major's tactics had popular support. While 55 per cent of people against 39 per cent believed the EU had initially been right to ban British beef, they felt — by 52 per cent to 37 per cent — on June 20 that the ban ought to be lifted.

NOP also found strong public support for a referendum on Britain's relations with Europe. Some 59 per cent wanted a referendum, against 24 per cent that did not.



Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto (left) and South Korean President Kim Young-Sam raise up soccer balls after signing their autographs Sunday after a summit meeting on Cheju Island, South Korea. Mr. Hashimoto and Mr. Kim stressed cooperation on co-hosting the 2002 World Cup and dealing with North Korea after summit talks Sunday (Reuters photo)

## Close friend of Aung San Suu Kyi found dead in Burmese prison

RANGOON (AFP) — James Leander "Leo" Nichols, 64, a close family friend of pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, has died in Rangoon's Central Prison only weeks into a three-year sentence, a family source said Sunday.

Nichols, who had been found guilty of violating the telecommunications law with the unauthorised use of facsimile machines and telephone lines, succumbed to a stroke, the source said.

Found unconscious in his jail-bed around 11:00 a.m. (0430 GMT) Saturday, Nichols was rushed to the prison hospital and then to downtown Rangoon's General Hospital where he died around 1:00 p.m. (0630 GMT).

A private businessman with a Burmese identity card, Nichols was also acting as de facto honorary counsel for several countries including Norway when he was arrested in April.

In late May an opposition source reported that Nichols had been sentenced to three years in prison and fined 30,000 kyats despite a petition for his release presented by the ambassadors of the countries he represented.

One U.S. dollar is worth about six kyats at the official exchange rate, or about 120 kyats at the prevailing market rate.

Nichols' house was searched on April 5, on a tip-off from a "duty-conscious person," according to the April 20 edition of the state New Light Of Myanmar.

The Anglo-Burman, son of Walter Nichols and Justine Leonie Gray, had been the owner of J. L. Enterprise and Myanco Company since 1990, the official daily said.

Nichols was managing director of United Liners Agencies from 1959-1962, a shipping agent until 1975, and a merchant for New Fishing Australia until 1987, it said.

His conviction was being appealed at a divisional court at the time of his death, a legal source who independently confirmed the death told AFP, adding that his immediate family in Australia had been informed.

A well-known philanthropist, Nichols had been a generous friend to Ms. Suu Kyi and her family.

Official confirmation of Nichols' demise was still pending.

Family sources said he was given a Christian burial Sunday attended by some 30 persons, as specified by the authorities, chosen by his niece.

Those attending were not identified but they did not include Ms. Suu Kyi, whose family, especially her late mother, were considered close friends of his, the family sources said.

None of Nichols' immediate family from Australia attended due to time constraints, they said.

Meanwhile more than 5,000 attended the

third consecutive week of meetings Sunday outside the gate of Ms. Suu Kyi following the announcement of a law which seemed designed to bring them to a halt.

Criticism of the military government was kept to a minimum during the one hour public meeting, during which Ms. Suu Kyi shared the platform as usual with Tin Oo and Kyi Maung, vice chairmen of her National League for Democracy.

On June 7, the ruling military junta announced a new law authorising the Home Ministry to outlaw any party drafting an alternative constitution or conducting any activity which "adversely affects the national interest."

Responsible members of any party outlawed under the act would be subject to prison terms of five-to-20 years.

The meeting, held in the afternoon monsoon rains, ended uneventfully. Her speech was noticeably toned down as she avoided controversial subjects.

Tin Oo, considered the legal expert among the leadership, however made direct references to the new law and praised the gathering for their courage with the threat of arrest over their heads.

He repeated that the NLD had sent the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) a letter reminding it "that the latest law totally contradicted their previous official pronouncements 'which spelled out their policies and set principles'."

The SLORC had promised to adhere to democratic principles in paving the way toward a genuine democratic state, and had stated that it was striving for national reconciliation with legal as well as underground groups, he said.

"I would like to emphasize that their latest law not only contradicts their earlier statements... but was deliberately enacted to dismember the NLD and declare it illegal," Mr. Tin Oo said.

The only practical way to ensure peace and stability, as the SLORC has said it intends to do, was "through dialogue and negotiations with all political parties based on the true desires of the people," Mr. Tin Oo said.

More than 260 members of the NLD were detained ahead of a party congress held in May. Although more than 150 have been released, as many as 13 of them said they were withdrawing from the party and dropping out of politics.

Ms. Suu Kyi has said the resignations from the party were "not binding" if they were made under duress.

Rangoon-based diplomats and analysts have said the new law may have been directed more at putting a halt to the NLD's plans to draft an alternative constitution than with ending the meetings.

## Royal Maya tomb found in Belize

WASHINGTON (R) — Archaeologists have discovered a Maya royal tomb in the rainforests of Belize containing a spectacular jade pendant atop the remains of a toothless "petty king."

The tomb dates to about 450 A.D. and may have held the remains of a ruler known as "Bird Jaguar," or perhaps his successor, according to Norman Hammond, a British archaeologist who was co-director of the expedition.

Mr. Hammond plans to announce his findings at a Conference on Maya Kings and Warfare at the British Museum in London Sunday. He described his discoveries at the pre-Columbian city of La Milpa in a telephone interview with Reuters from Cambridge, England last week.

The grave was unmarked and, luckily for the archaeologists, had never been discovered by the looters and grave-robbars who in the past have damaged ruins in search of jewels and valuable artifacts. The site is now part of a protected ecological preserve in Belize, an English-speaking country in Central America.

But the fact that it was unmarked suggests that he was not a particularly powerful king, but a "petty one, bush league" said Mr. Hammond. In its prime, La Milpa probably had about 50,000 inhabitants but this monarch was not the ruler when his city was at its most powerful.

Yet the jade pendant, a head of a vulture protruding from his chest, was a spectacular one, far more impressive than the ear ornaments and other personal jewelry he was wearing. "That was second grade stuff,"

Mr. Hammond said.

"But the royal regalia placed on the body after it was put in the grave was a really superb piece... a unique piece of Maya lapidary art," he said, adding that the jade itself had probably come from a site some 400 kilometres away in Guatemala.

The vulture represented a lord or king to the Maya, who regarded their king as divine. "He was the conduit to the gods and the other world in his lifetime, and deified and venerated as an ancestor and a god after his death."

The necklace has beads of different shapes and sizes but they are all the same light apple-green colour. A separate bead, as big as a cherry, was placed in the king's mouth, probably to receive the spirit, he said.

The king was roughly 5 foot three inches tall (1.6 metres), and between 35 and 50 years old, scholars estimate. But he had no teeth, and the condition of the jaw socket showed they had all fallen out when he was alive.

"It's unusual. In most Maya burials, the teeth are in better condition than the bones," said Mr. Hammond.

Either the king had some kind of congenital defect that affected his teeth, or "he did not eat wisely," suggested Mr. Hammond.

La Milpa was discovered in 1938, but was not accessible by road until the late 1980s. Mr. Hammond started his work there in 1992. A year later, the team found layers of limestone and flint chips, which turned out to be the filling of the shaft leading to the burial chamber.

## 19 rescued as American yacht sinks off Sardinia

ROME (AFP) — A U.S.-registered yacht sank off the island of Sardinia early Sunday a few minutes after the 19 people aboard were rescued by Italian military helicopters and boats. Marine officials said. The yacht Nadine, which had been taking on water since Saturday, sent out an SOS in the evening, and several boats including a tanker, tugboats and Coast Guard vessels, went to its rescue. But choppy seas and strong winds prevented the rescue of the 11 passengers and eight crew, whom the officials did not identify, during the night. The 30-metre yacht had left the seaside resort of Civitavecchia, north of Rome, Saturday morning and was headed towards Sardinia's Emerald Coast town of Cala Volpe, an exclusive vacation spot. It sank off the port of Olbia. Once the passengers and crew were all brought aboard the Italian Marine vessel the San Giorgio, they were to be taken to Olbia.

## Mother of three burnt alive as a witch

PORT MORESBY (AFP) — Four people have been arrested and charged with murder after a mother of three suspected of being a witch was burnt alive in Papua New Guinea's eastern highlands, according to a weekend report here. The Post Courier quoted provincial police Commander Steven Touilly as saying the woman had been put inside a copra bag soaked in kerosene by a group of people who suspected her of sorcery and the bag was then set alight. Copra are dried coconut kernels. The woman, from Kerowagi in the Chimbu province, was rescued and taken to hospital with severe burns, but died later. Four people, including one woman, were arrested and charged with wilful murder, Commander Touilly said. He added that many women from the province had lost their lives through sorcery-related incidents and warned that police would not allow people to commit such crimes.

## Couple charged with enslaving maid

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Two Indian nationals have been indicted on federal charges of enslaving their maid in their Florida home and forcing her to wear a dog collar and leash as punishment, officials said. A federal grand jury in Miami alleged that Kishin Mahtani, 42, and his wife, Shashi Gobindram, 34, illegally induced the victim to come to the United States and held her against her will for almost seven months in their Miami area home, according to a statement by the U.S. Justice Department. The indictment charges the couple with conspiracy to hold the victim in a condition of involuntary servitude by forcing her to perform excessive work in their house with little or no payment, by threatening her, by beating her and forcing her to live in conditions designed to eliminate any resistance. According to the indictment, Ms. Gobindram showed her displeasure with the maid by forcing her to wear a dog collar and leash, forcibly holding her head under water, and threatening her with a knife. The maid, who was not identified, was also branded with a hot iron by the couple. "That slavery exists in this day and age is still shocking," said U.S. Attorney William Keefe. If convicted, the defendants face up to 50 years imprisonment and fines of up to \$1.25 million. Last month, the Justice Department obtained six- and seven-year prison sentences in a prosecution of eight Thai nationals for holding more than 80 predominantly female workers in involuntary servitude.



**19 rescued as American yacht sinks off Sardinia**

ROME (AFP) — A 19-registered yacht sank off the island of Sardinia on Sunday a few minutes after it was rescued by Italian coast guard helicopters and boats.

The yacht, named *Nadine*, was carrying 19 people, including a crew of five and 14 passengers. The vessel was taken on board by a helicopter and a boat. The passengers were taken to a hospital in Sardinia.

The yacht was carrying a large amount of cash, which was also rescued. The cash was taken to a bank in Sardinia.

## Security, peace drive brings down S. Africa death toll

DURBAN, South Africa (AFP) — A tough security crackdown and new peace efforts by rival parties have drastically reduced political violence in KwaZulu-Natal days before a key poll in the troubled province, officials said Sunday.

President Nelson Mandela earlier this month ordered thousands of police and army reinforcements into the region to protect voters and polling stations for the June 26 local government elections.

"As far as political violence is concerned, it has been really quiet since Tuesday," police spokesman Vish Naidoo said, referring to the start of the second phase of a month-long security operation.

More than 3.5 million voters are expected at the polls Wednesday to vote for new village, town and city councils in the province, bringing to an end eight months of uncertainty over local government in KwaZulu-Natal.

Most other urban and rural areas in South Africa held local elections in November 1995, completing the democratisation process that began with the first all-race, national elections in April 1994.

But in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa's most populous province and home to its largest ethnic group, the Zulus, election preparations have been plagued by disputes over the position of tribal chiefs and allegations of fraud, and postponed twice because of fears of political violence.

According to police records, at least 300 people died in the first four months of this year in fighting which has claimed almost 20,000 lives since it began in 1985.

This year's deaths include nine election candidates.

Now, however, Mr. Mandela's ruling African National Congress (ANC) and its long-standing arch-rival, the Zulu-nationalist Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), say a new peace initiative they launched in late May is taking hold.

Mr. Mandela and IFP leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi have agreed to share a platform at a public rally and make a joint call for peace, although this event is unlikely to take place before the election.

Independent election monitors warn the so-called no-go areas — villages or townships from which the ANC and the IFP say they are barred by the other's supporters — could still prove an obstacle to free and fair polls with many of the 3,000 polling stations falling within such zones.

The ANC and the IFP each list about a dozen areas where they say their party workers are unable to campaign.

Observers mainly attribute the fall in violence to increased security in KwaZulu-Natal.

The provincial police force has been swelled with 6,000 extra officers while nine additional full-time army companies and 20 part-time units have been sent as back-up to the National Defence Force.

An Election Committee appointed by Mr. Mandela has given special powers to the security forces to protect ballot boxes and voters.

Seven people were arrested and 44 illegal firearms seized in the black township of KwaMashu outside this port Friday, during "Operation Tracey," one of several joint police and army pre-emptive strikes on known flashpoints.

The target during the midnight to midday raid was a workers' hostel, an IFP stronghold from which armed men launched an attack last month on a nearby palace of Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini.



South African defence troops maintain a strong presence during last rounds of President Nelson Mandela's campaigning in KwaZulu-Natal, ahead of the local government elections on June 26. Mandela called for a peaceful vote in the KwaZulu-Natal, which has seen intense feuding between his African National Congress supporters and those of his arch-rival Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party (Reuters photo)

## India's main opposition party says shaky government to fall

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India's main opposition party Sunday said the United Front Coalition government comprised vested interests which would fall if the historically-dominant Congress (I) Party withdrew its support.

The pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party), in a resolution at the end of a three-day national meet, also accused the alliance of shielding former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao from corruption charges.

"The government is a disunited front and essentially fragile," the statement released in the central city of Bhopal said. "It represents political opportunism, sordid power lust and extreme ideological contradictions."

It said elections, scheduled for 2001, could be held earlier because the front stood on shaky ground.

The BJP, which took power briefly after the April-May general elections as the single largest party with 161 seats in the fractured 545-member lower house of parliament, said only it had the legitimate mandate to rule.

The BJP was forced to quit on May 28 after a 13-day rule due to its inability to prove it had a parliamentary majority. It was succeeded by the 13-party United Front which was sworn in June 1 with the crucial backing of 140 Congress MPs.

The statement said the new government's quid pro quo with the Congress included protecting party President Rao and his relatives from numerous corruption charges including their alleged role in a giant fertilizer buying scandal.

Mr. Rao and his relatives have denied involvement. But seven ministers in Mr. Rao's cabinet were forced to quit earlier over a raging \$21-million bribery scandal in which the former premier was also named.

as a recipient of bribes by the main accused.

"The front is a Congress proxy to whitewash its sins of corruption... (Rao) has succeeded in installing an unstable, fragile and puppet government which will seek to cover up his crimes," it said.

"The BJP warned that the Congress would withdraw support when the leadership issue was resolved — a reference to alleged discontent over Mr. Rao's presidency of the 11-year-old party which suffered its worst electoral debacle recently.

"Many former congressmen have taken temporary refuge in the United Front. The moment the leadership issue in the Congress is resolved, the nation may witness the collapse of the (government) with these (leaders) returning home," it said.

The reference to the "temporary" Congress participants in the government was aimed at Finance Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram who held the coveted commerce portfolio in Mr. Rao's cabinet until he resigned and joined a splinter group.

The statement said the government's inherent contradictions were apparent from its economic agenda, largely crafted by pro-market reformer Mr. Chidambaram, which went against the tenets of the government's Communist allies.

"Marxist economy and Chidambaram's commitment to a free market and indiscriminate globalisation can only produce an impossible cocktail," it said, adding that the front and the Congress would have to pay a heavy price for "snatching the people's mandate."

"We will strongly oppose this national betrayal," it said. "An injured public opinion strikes back with a greater vengeance... (the Congress-Front grouping) is a one-point programme to keep the BJP out of power."

## China scraps visit by Kinkel over Tibet

BEIJING (R) — China announced Sunday it had scrapped a July visit by German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel in protest against a Bonn parliamentary resolution accusing China of human rights abuses in Tibet.

Germany was to blame for the damage to bilateral ties, state radio quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying.

"The recent damage to Sino-German relations was completely caused by the German side," he said.

"The Chinese side has protested and expressed its strong opposition and indignation," he said.

"The parliament's action publicly trampled international law and grossly interfered in China's internal affairs," the Foreign Ministry said, adding that the resolution had also seriously hurt the feelings of the Chinese people.

"In these circumstances, the Chinese side feels the atmosphere is clearly not appropriate for a planned visit to China by Foreign Minister... Kinkel on July 11 to 14," it said.

China had decided to postpone the visit, it said.

The Foreign Ministry summoned German Ambassador to Beijing Konrad Seitz on Saturday to voice its protest and called him in again Sunday to notify him of the cancellation of Mr. Kinkel's visit, German sources said.

The German parliamentary resolution condemned a list of alleged human rights abuses in Tibet including "forced sterilisation of women and forced abortions political, religious and cultural persecution, and the subordination of the country to a Chinese-controlled administration."

China rejects the charges.

However, Beijing held out room for relations to recover before a visit pencilled in for late this year by Germany's President Roman Herzog.

"China hopes the German side can take concrete and effective measures based on the mutual interests of their two peoples to ensure the healthy development of Sino-German relations without interference," the Foreign Ministry said.

China has slammed Thursday's resolution in Bonn as "an open, flagrant violation of international law and a serious case of interference in China's internal affairs."

Bonn's Foreign Ministry promised Friday not to let the matter rest.

A ministry spokesman said Bonn rejected this "criticism of the constitutional organ of parliament and the decision of a freely elected parliament" and would send this message to Beijing via diplomatic channels.

The motion put forward by all the major political parties also called on the German government to urge China to start negotiations with Tibet's "government-in-exile" on more rights for the Tibetan people.

## Yeltsin adopts nationalist tone

BALTISK, Russia (R) — President Boris Yeltsin, back on the campaign trail, struck a nationalist tone Sunday in Russia's Baltic enclave of Kaliningrad, promising the navy a greater and more prosperous future.

Mr. Yeltsin, who faces a strong challenge from Communist Gennady Zyuganov in a July 3 runoff ballot, also vowed to protect the rights of Russian-speakers in the Baltic states.

"Guaranteeing the basic rights and freedoms of our compatriots (in the Baltics) is a priority for me," said Mr. Yeltsin, complaining in particular about the plight of Russians in Latvia and Estonia.

Mr. Yeltsin drew heavily on phrases used by his nationalist rivals in the July 16 first-round ballot as he addressed sailors and navy officers at the naval base in Baltisk, headquarters of Russia's Baltic Fleet.

Mr. Yeltsin told servicemen of the fleet, which lost most of its bases after the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991 and the three Baltic republics regained their independence, that Russia remained a great naval power.

"It was here in the Baltic region that Russia reinstated itself as a great maritime and naval power," he said. "And it will continue playing this role in future."

"I am sure that Russia and Russians have a bright future and it is not too far away," he told the ranks of navy servicemen and Marines lined up under low grey skies on the central square of fleet headquarters in Baltisk, some 60 kilometres west of the regional centre, Kaliningrad.

"The basis of this bright future is known — freedom and order," the 65-year-old Kremlin leader added.

The last phrase was borrowed directly from the campaign of retired paratrooper General Alexander Lebed, whom Mr. Yeltsin brought in to the Kremlin as a security overlord after he ended a strong third in first-round voting.

Mr. Yeltsin, who had a thin three-percentage-point advantage over Mr. Zyuganov in the first round, visited the military enclave of Kaliningrad, wedged between Poland and Lithuania, in a clear attempt to secure the large Lebed vote there.

Gen. Lebed won 19 per cent support in the Kaliningrad region in the first round.

Mr. Yeltsin said his appointment of Gen. Lebed as secretary of the powerful Security Council would help towards government policies aimed at improving the lot of Russia's servicemen.

He told the sailors of the warship *Nastoiichiv* (Insistent), which he visited in Baltisk, that the Kaliningrad region, which belonged to Germany and was known as Eastern Prussia until the end of World War II, would remain Russian beyond any doubt.

"The Kaliningrad region is Russian soil," he said. "There should be no doubt about it."

Mr. Yeltsin laid a cornerstone for construction of the first Russian Orthodox Church in Kaliningrad, which until 1945 was known by its German name of Königsberg.

Officials from the presidential team said the ceremony was intended to demonstrate that Russia was entrenching its presence in the region for good.

Mr. Yeltsin said abuse of Russians' civil rights in Latvia and Estonia was hindering attempts by Moscow to improve ties with the Baltic states.

He said that, while Lithuania was showing the "most civilised" approach to the problem of Russian-speakers living on its territory, "unfortunately in Latvia and Estonia almost one third of the population is without citizenship."

Both Estonia and Latvia have large Russian minorities who were mostly denied automatic citizenship of the newly-independent countries in 1991.

On Saturday headline Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko offered lukewarm backing to Mr. Yeltsin in the final round of Russia's presidential election.

Lukashenko, as many politicians in the former Soviet republic of 10 million say Mr. Lukashenko's dream of reumon with Russia can only be accomplished if Mr. Yeltsin is defeated next month by Communist challenger Gennady Zyuganov.

"Today is a difficult time for you," Mr. Lukashenko said to Mr. Yeltsin during ceremonies in the city of Brest, near the Polish border, marking the 50th anniversary of Nazi Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union.

"But, as we saw today on the streets of this beautiful city, everyone believes this time will soon be over and crowned with a victory for you," Mr. Lukashenko said.

Mr. Lukashenko's pro-Russian policies since his election in 1994 culminated in the signature two months ago of a treaty creating a "community" between the two Slav neighbours.

But there has been only a sketchy explanation on how to build such a community with supra-national institutions and joint policy making.

Mr. Lukashenko quarrelled recently with Mr. Yeltsin over both the Belarusian leader's uncompromising line on political opposition inside Belarus as well as his "go-slow" policy on market reform.

Mr. Yeltsin cautioned Saturday: "If we proceed with reforms at different speeds then there will be no integration."

Mr. Lukashenko described Mr. Yeltsin's slender first round lead over Mr. Zyuganov as voters passing judgement on reforms they had rejected.

"This is the people's answer on reform. As a president elected by ordinary people am I supposed to implement policies which the people do not accept?" he told a meeting of youth groups last week.

Before the first round, Mr. Yeltsin made a jab of his own at Mr. Lukashenko, saying he could give the Belarusian leader "a lesson or two" in democracy.

That was reference to Mr. Lukashenko's crackdown on demonstrators who took part in mass protests against the pact with Russia as well as the closure of several newspapers and suspension of several trade unions.

## Pope beatifies 2 priests

BERLIN (R) — Pope John Paul Sunday beatified two German priests persecuted by the Nazis but for the second day running dropped a controversial part of a prepared speech about the church's role during the Nazi era.

On the final day of his first trip to reunited Germany, the 76-year-old Pontiff said a mass for some 100,000 people at Berlin's Olympic Stadium, the venue of the 1936 games which Hitler hoped would prove the superiority of the Aryan race.

At a ceremony reopening one of the most painful chapters of recent Roman Catholic history, he beatified Bernhard Lichtenberg and Karl Leisner, two anti-Nazi priests who died after being persecuted by the Third Reich.

In his prepared homily, the Pope mentioned that while he was in a Nazi prison in 1943, Lichtenberg received a letter of support and comfort from Pope Pius XII, who reigned during the war.

But he did not read several passages in the prepared text distributed to reporters, including the following: "Those who don't limit themselves to cheap polemics know very well what Pius XII thought about the Nazi regime and how much he did to help the countless victims persecuted by that regime."

Jews have accused Pope Pius XII of looking the other way during the war and regularly point to what they call "the silence of Pius" while six million Jews were killed.

Vatican historians say Pope Pius worked quietly behind the scenes to save Jews and did not speak out more forcefully for fear of worsening the situation for Catholics as well as Jews in Germany and German-occupied countries.

German Jewish leader Ignatz Bubis, whom the Pope was due to meet later Sunday, told Berlin's Inforadio he did not want to discuss Pope Pius XII with the Pontiff. "That has all been said, it is known, we won't talk about details," he said.

But Mr. Bubis said he would urge Pope John Paul to speak out against plans to build a supermarket next to the Auschwitz death camp.

On Saturday in Paderborn, Pope John Paul sidestepped a possible controversial reaction from Jews when he dropped a passage in his sermon that said the "whole church" put up resistance to the Nazi regime.

That passage contrasted with a statement by German bishops last year lamenting a "profound failure" of Catholics to resist anti-Semitism during the Nazi era.

The Vatican says the written version remains the official record when the Pope omits parts of prepared texts.

An editorial in the Berliner Morgenpost said the Pope had done well not to read the phrase because only individual Catholics and not the entire church had stood up to Hitler.

Wearing green and white vestments and looking healthy, the Pope spoke to the crowd from the terrace where the Olympic flame burned in 1936. Behind him stretched a large field where the Nazis regularly held military marches.

As he put the two priests on the road to sainthood at a pageant-filled ceremony, the Pope praised them for being beacons of humanity in one of Europe's darkest eras.

"Today, the two martyrs celebrate their victory right here in the place where 60 years ago the National Socialist regime wanted to use the Olympic Games as a triumph of their inhumane ideology, where the idealism of youth was profaned, where people were incited to hate and enmity," he said in German.

Lichtenberg openly prayed for the Jews in the Berlin Cathedral daily for three years until the Gestapo arrested him in 1941. He defiantly told his interrogators: "I have only one Fuehrer — Jesus Christ."

Beatification is the next-to-last rung on the ladder leading to sainthood in the Roman Catholic Church.

Lichtenberg died in 1943 while being transferred to the Dachau concentration camp. Leisner, denounced for a furtive comment about Hitler, was imprisoned in Dachau and died from tuberculosis after the U.S. army liberated the camp in 1945.

The Pope is also due to speak at the Brandenburg Gate of the once-divided city before returning to Rome late Sunday.

Thousands of Poles, including nuns in black habits and Franciscan clergy in their brown robes, crowded into the massive stadium to see their countryman celebrate mass.

## Manila, Muslim rebels move closer to peace pact

DAVAO, Philippines (R) — The Philippines and Muslim rebels took a major step Sunday towards ending a 24-year-old rebellion and officials hoped a peace deal could be signed as early as next month.

After three days of talks, Manila and the insurgent Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) said they agreed to create a guerrilla-led transitional body to run a long disputed southern region.

The move to set up the Southern Philippine Council for Peace and Development would pave the way for the creation of an autonomous region in the southern Philippines.

In a joint statement at the close of the talks in southern Davao City, Manila and the rebels expressed hope a formal peace pact between the two would be signed in Jakarta next month.

Indonesia is the chairman of a special committee of the Organisation of Islamic Conference which is mediating the negotiations that began in Jakarta in 1993.

Two key issues left unresolved, involving an MNLF demand to set up its own regional police force comprising 20,000 guerrillas, would be discussed by a special working group, the statement said.

"Maybe we are at the tail end of the typhoon," MNLF chief Nur Misuari said as he went into the closing session.

"Our destination is in sight," chief government negotiator Manuel Yan told the closing session. "There are some pitfalls along the way but they are no longer as dangerous and steep."

The MNLF would head the Council for Peace and Development and the rebels have the power to supervise economic development in the Mindanao region and adjacent islands where most of this largely Christian country's Muslim minority live.

The government has offered Mr. Misuari to be council chairman.

The body would also have the power to call upon the military and the police to carry out peacekeeping operations in the proposed autonomy area of 14 southern provinces and nine cities.

After three years, the council will give way to an autonomous region commissioning provinces which would vote to join it in a plebiscite.

Government negotiator Alexander Aguirre said the MNLF had agreed to the holding of a vote as a condition for setting up the autonomous region.

The rebels had opposed a plebiscite fearing the Christian majority in Mindanao would vote it down.

Muslims consider Mindanao as their ancestral home, but decades of Christian migration into a region rich with minerals and other resources has turned them into a minority with little political and economic clout.

The joint statement said the agreement to set up the council was "The most important breakthrough."

The government earlier rejected the MNLF's demand to have its own police force with the rebels having complete operational control. Manila said it was against the constitution, which stipulates all police forces should be under its control.

The MNLF also wanted at least 7,500 of its fighters to be integrated into the regular army. The government said it could only absorb 5,500.

Mr. Misuari, at the closing session, urged President Fidel Ramos and armed forces to make a commitment they would honour the agreement and ensure lasting peace in Mindanao.

"I am afraid that if we fail in the end, we might be condemned to repeat the bitterness of the past," hinting the alternative might be the resumption of hostilities.

More than 50,000 people died at the height of the MNLF-led revolt for Muslim self-rule in the 1970s. Rebels estimated the death toll at about 200,000, mostly civilians.

Mr. Misuari, a former university political science professor, launched the revolt in 1972 shortly after then President Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law.



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## Restarting at summit

HAVING HEEDED the voice of reason and pragmatism the Arab leaders succeeded at the end of their two-day summit in Cairo yesterday in sending necessary and sound messages to their people, to Israel and to the international community at large.

The message the summit has sent to the Arab people is that the alternative to working together is loss of direction and more divisions. This is not to say that the summit has managed to resolve all the differences that have kept the Arab countries apart. That it did not do. But the summit has produced a belated recognition that dialogue and frank discussions are the best vehicle for solving disputes and clearing misunderstandings. The summit has thus provided a boarding gate from which the Arab leaders can move to address issues that produced only tensions and disputes.

In this vein, the meetings between His Majesty King Hussein and President Hafez Al Assad of Syria were an important first step towards mending fences between the two states.

More ground has to be covered before full brotherly ties can be restored, based on mutual respect and interests, it is true. But it is obvious that without a meeting between the two heads of state we would have remained far apart and away from achieving this goal.

On the peace process, the voice of Jordan has been the one of reason. And it seems that it is this voice that was largely heard and reflected by the summit. The process is a strategic choice which cannot be abandoned if the future stability and prosperity of the region is to be secured. But peace should have its solid pillars of justice and comprehensiveness. It cannot be attained without the regaining of the Palestinian rights, lands and sovereignty, without an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Syrian and Lebanese lands, and without commitment to the agreements that have been reached and the principles upon which they were finalised. The ball is now in the court of the Israeli government which can either proceed on the path of peace or risk subjecting the whole region to yet more protracted conflict and violence.

Notwithstanding what the Israeli government has said about it, the summit's message was one of moderation. Israel should reciprocate. And so should the international community throw its weight behind the forces of reason and moderation in the region.

But peace and stability cannot be achieved through terror and extremism. This was the argument with which Jordan approached the issue of terrorism as the decision adopted by the summit clearly indicated. While recognising the right of people to resist occupation and aggression, the summit issued a blanket condemnation of terrorism, which cannot be used as means to attain political goals. No country should be allowed to promote and support terrorism and no country should host terrorist organisations whoever are behind them and whatever the cause.

After six years of paralysis, the Arab summit institution has received a push that, if followed upon in the right direction, could lead to a considerable reinvigoration of its role. The final communiqué articulated in a reasonable manner the need for closer Arab links and the foundations upon which these ties should be structured in a world where the Arab Nation has a long way to go before it regains its rightful place in the international community. But a wealth of past experiences prove that words alone are of little significance in tackling the numerous problems with which the Arab World is grappling. What is needed is action that would translate these words into a tangible reality which the Arab masses can feel and live by. The summit was a good start. Let us hope, though, that the final destination will not be lost due to lack of readiness or unwillingness on our part to do what is necessary to reach it.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE MERE holding of the Arab summit in Cairo is considered a very good achievement for the Arabs because the event gives Arab leaders the chance to frankly air their views with regard to different issues that mark their relations, in the view of Sultan Al Hartab, a writer for Al Ra'i daily Sunday. Through this summit, he said, the Arab leaders proved they realise that they cannot deal with all questions or find solutions to problems that irked the Arab region for decades, but at least they are now diagnosing the ills and trying to work out a common strategy to deal with them. In his opening address to the meeting, President Mubarak set the stage for the Arab leaders by voicing their unanimous desire to achieve a comprehensive peace with Israel on the basis of U.N. resolutions which call for the exchange of land for peace, said the writer. But at the same time, the Egyptian president emphasised that the Arab countries cannot accept peace at any cost, that the Palestinians have the right to an independent state in their own land and that Israel must remain committed to its deals with the Palestinians and must end its occupation of Arab lands in Syria and Lebanon, continued the writer. Egypt, added the writer, has thus succeeded in rallying the Arabs behind its quest to achieve a comprehensive peace and in achieving some solidarity among the leaders in their common quest to achieve justice.

## Economic Review

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur

# Netanyahu's simple approach to economics

UNCERTAINTY and alarm have already been expressed by almost everyone over the election of Benjamin Netanyahu and the return of the conservatives to the seat of power in Israel for the first time since 1983, which is viewed as a catalyst for the return to an era of "no-war and no-peace."

However, based upon an evaluation of Mr. Netanyahu's plan for the Israeli economy, I believe that we can go a step further: We can say good-bye, at least for now, to the breakthrough that has already been achieved in Arab-Israeli relations. Why? Because for Mr. Netanyahu's economic plan to work (as enunciated by him and the articulators of his views on several occasions during his campaign) a just and lasting regional peace must be sacrificed.

Mr. Netanyahu says that Israel should depend more on itself and less on the largesse of the U.S. government; thus, he wants to eliminate the American influence on the Israeli foreign policy which, needless to say, is a noble, yet expensive goal. In fact, it will be a miracle if Israel ever managed to survive without the money it receives from the U.S., which amounts to an annual \$1,000 per capita.

So how is Mr. Netanyahu going to finance the loss in income? By creating a self-reliant, wealthy Israel which can be achieved by restructuring the economy and divesting the government of many assets. Of course, among those assets are the occupied lands of 1967.

Actually, the sale of Arab lands will solve several economic problems, according to Mr. Netanyahu who believes that land prices in Israel are artificially inflated because of the government's policy of restricting the supply of land to Israeli citizens. Therefore, as soon as the government sells its lands, the overall inflation index will fall and the money generated from the sale of these lands will compensate the government for the lost revenue from foreign aid which would probably decrease as a result of such a move. Thus, albeit financed by the sale of Arab land, a more self-reliant Israel will emerge.

Additionally, as more (Arab) land becomes available at lower prices, the real income of Israeli citizens will rise which in turn makes Israel a more attractive place for Western and American Jews to come to live and to infuse their skills and personal wealth into.

Thus, and according to "Bibi", Israel is guaranteed through the land sale a greater stock of human capital which will give it a comparative advantage in many industries, especially in its already flourishing information technology.

During a speech made by Mr. Netanyahu, he pointed out that the percentage of people below the poverty line had increased by 4 per cent over the last two years because of the high taxes in Israel which are, according to him, 10 per cent points above those of Western industrial countries. Mr. Netanyahu's promise is simple: he wants to relieve the Israeli citizens of their heavy tax burden and increase their disposable income by reducing taxes and lowering the marginal tax rate from its present level of 60 per cent. (No wonder he won the elections!)

But how does he plan to compensate the government for the lost tax revenue? Through the sale of Arab lands which is, again, the primary solution to Israel's economic woes.

Mr. Netanyahu criticised the Labour government for spending \$6 billion of the controversial U.S. government loan guarantee (which was awarded to Israel by ex-President Bush in a hopeless bid to gain support from the

Israelis and to attract the votes of American Jews) on the Israeli labour federation (Histadruth), infrastructure projects in the West Bank, and paying the debt of Israel's bankrupt communes (kibbutzim), instead of spending it on encouraging immigration and building more settlements. Mr. Netanyahu wants the remainder of the funds to finance immigration activities and the building of settlements on Arab lands to provide cheaply financed housing for the newly arrived.

Clearly, according to Mr. Netanyahu, the solution to Israel's economic problems is through the sale of Arab lands which is an optimal solution except for one small constraint: the Arabs.

Mr. Netanyahu proposed an answer to this problem which entails simply beefing up Israeli internal security through stronger and longer, more elaborate fences (in all fairness to Bibi, this solution was first suggested by Mr. Peres), replacement of Arab labour with other nationalities or non-skilled immigrants, mass deportations of troublesome Arabs and increasing military spending, possibly to Israel's pre-peace level of 20 per cent of the GDP.

*"... myopic, short-term solutions prove to be disastrous in the long run. The gains attained from peace so far may be lost as the region becomes a hotbed for strife, hatred and wars. The obvious superiority of the Israeli forces in Cana guaranteed their defeat as Arab children and women brought about, through dear sacrifices, the fall of the mighty."*

Obviously the "guns-for-butter" example, taught in elementary and first year economics classes, would be wasted on Mr. Netanyahu who believes, as an imperialist would, that the Arabs should be dealt with firmly while Israeli wealth and security can be guaranteed by Israel's military superiority. Therefore, Mr. Netanyahu does not have the "land-for-peace" solution on his agenda. Instead he wants the peace of the mighty, a peace which he dictates.

But is his vision correct? No, because myopic, short-term solutions prove to be disastrous in the long run. The gains attained from peace so far may be lost as the region becomes a hotbed for strife, hatred and wars. The obvious superiority of the Israeli forces in Cana guaranteed their defeat as Arab children and women brought about, through dear sacrifices, the fall of the mighty.

The sale of Arab land will, too, prove to bear its own Grapes of Wrath and in time all gains will translate into lost investment opportunities, reverse immigration and a sea of distrust. Yes, "simple economics" is not usually "correct economics" and the message of Cana should not be in vain.

## LETTERS

### Imminent disintegration?

To the Editor:

Jordan is destined for ruin should Minister of Information Marwan Muasher really follow through with his subversive intentions to abolish the Ministry of Information. So warns columnist Fahed Faneh in his weekly column under the title "Ministry of Information — improve not remove" (Jordan Times, June 23, 1996).

As Dr. Faneh himself is a journalist, I was quite astonished to read his article arguing against abolishing the Ministry of Information.

Putting all financial considerations aside, let us review the following points he raised:

Dr. Faneh asserts that even the United States has a "similar ministry called the United States Information Agency (USIA), in charge of the American propaganda apparatus all over the world" and that the BBC is owned by the British government.

May Dr. Faneh stand corrected: USIA is not a ministry in the United States and does not have cabinet status, and therefore is not a partner in creating U.S. policy, be it domestic or foreign. It also has no mandate to take any medium to court on the grounds that the ears of the government have been offended by critical commentary, forbidden by a restrictive press and publications law. It does not have a censorship department that would disallow the circulation of certain material deemed unfit for public consumption. Furthermore, its services — the Wireless File and Voice of America — are prohibited by law from publishing and airing in the United States, perhaps because to allow or encourage such broadcasts may be considered an infringement on press and speech freedoms, guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

USIA is an independent agency that takes its cue from the State Department. Its raison d'être is to explain the U.S. policy to whoever might be interested. Its mandate also exceeds that of dissemination of "propaganda" and includes a host of cultural activities via its various embassies worldwide.

If Dr. Faneh wants to make a comparison, he might want to compare USIA to Jordan's own government news agency, Petra, which also disseminates its fair share of propaganda, within Jordan.

While I cannot defend the objectivity of USIA, I would like to point out that, whether we like it or not, dissemination of "propaganda" is, in fact, the job of hundreds of government-owned news services around the world.

As for the BBC, and notwithstanding Dr. Faneh's charge that "no one can be employed by the BBC before getting clearance from MIs", the service has a reputation of being one of the best (if not the best) news

services in the world in terms of balanced coverage of news worldwide. Its reputation is beyond reproach, and the British Foreign Office has hardly hindered its ability to give an accurate description of events. In fact, the BBC has on many occasions been at loggerheads with various British governments, including those of Winston Churchill and Margaret Thatcher.

Second, may I point to the Saudi-owned Orbit satellite service and its recent debacle with the BBC only a few months ago, whereby Orbit, which used to transmit the BBC's Arabic service to the Arab World, decided to block the service because of the BBC's intention to air information about Saudi opposition abroad. Rather than be coerced into withholding the story from the air in order to continue receiving finance and facilities from Orbit, the BBC allowed the service to fold at the behest of Orbit. As I said before, the integrity of the BBC is beyond reproach.

Now Dr. Faneh wonders why Jordan alone should give up its information ministry. Let me tell him: Jordan purports itself, and rightly so, to be an example of moderation, modernisation and, to an extent, democracy, in the Arab World. Why should it need a ministry of information?

Jordan would not stand alone in this endeavour, by the way. Qatar recently annulled its own ministry of information.

He also offers that in Israel, "the Arab radio is said to be run by Mossad." Dr. Faneh, can you really justify the existence of the ministry with this absurd argument?

Dr. Faneh also asserts that "having a ministry of information does not mean that 'the government of the day should dominate and monopolise airtime.' Unfortunately, the government has proven itself incapable of relinquishing its prevalence in any of Jordan's media, much to the detriment of its image at home and abroad.

I do believe that Dr. Muasher is striving to restore credibility to the media and the government.

Finally, Dr. Faneh adds: "abolishing the ministry" is a "suicidal action", supported mostly by those who would like to "see the Jordanian state disintegrate." Truth be told, I can think of few more committed to the good of his country than Dr. Muasher — I can hardly conceive that he is such a seditionist at heart!

Amy Henderson  
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

## Human Rights File

# Arab default and Iraq's future

By Waleed M. Sadi

The recently concluded food-for-oil deal struck between Iraq and the U.N. will not lead to further relaxation of the punitive sanctions imposed on it by the Security Council in the aftermath of the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait in 1990.

The initial euphoria generated by the deal gave rise to false expectations that Baghdad's acceptance of Security Council Resolution 986 would set into motion a determined effort to lift the crippling sanctions on the country.

There was also talk about a tacit promise by France, Russia and China to work diligently for the purpose of reintegrating Iraq into the international community if Baghdad would only accept Resolution 986.

The premise was that such a step by Baghdad would create the right kind of positive environment that could eventually lead to the conclusion that the Iraqi regime in Baghdad had actually implemented Security Council Resolution 687.

It should be recalled that that resolution aimed at effectively disarming Iraq and rendering it feeble and inconsequential militarily and politically. If that were the case, Iraq would now qualify for having the punitive measures taken against it in 1991 ended.

All these early hopes have, however, been dashed when it dawned on all sides that Washington and London were not about to change course on Iraq or amend their strategic designs on the country. The realisation that the Iraqis would benefit from less than half of the oil revenues has also led to reappraisal of the pitfalls of the deal. It has turned out that the U.N. itself was more than eager to finalise the deal for the primary reason of defraying its own expenses incurred on the Iraqi file at a time when its coffers are nearly empty. In actual terms, the welfare of the Iraqi people themselves figured very low on the agenda of the parties which negotiated the agreement.

Technically speaking, the sticking point is Iraq's bacteriological weapons programme on which U.N. inspector Rolf Ekeus refrained from issuing a clean bill of health. It is now conceded that with regard to other mass destruction weapons and their means of delivery, the U.N. is satisfied that Iraq is effectively free from them. On Iraq's biological weapons programme, though, Iraq is being put in the unique and unenviable position of having to prove its innocence by proving, to the satisfaction of the U.S. and Britain, that it has become free of this kind of weapons; so the onus was shifted on Iraq to prove that it no longer has them.

Knowledgeable people also maintain that even if Iraq succeeds in refuting the accusation that it has bacteriological bombs, both Washington and London are poised to upgrade the requirements on Iraq before sanctions are lifted.

Two primary issues are on these two countries' agenda before that happens: the fate of hundreds of disappeared or imprisoned Kuwaitis and the Iraqi human rights file. The former is the easier of the two and appears to be more manageable since it is conceivable that Iraq would be persuaded to start acting in a more forthcoming way on an essentially humanitarian issue.

The human rights file of Iraq remains the most formidable subject. If, as predicted, President Bill Clinton is reelected in November and persists in demanding a higher human rights record from Iraq as a *sine qua non* for lifting the "U.N." sanctions, the Iraqi regime might not be able to survive.

What Washington is in effect demanding of Iraq is to introduce pluralistic democracy as a condition for ending the punishing measures against it. As legitimate as the call for a democratisation process and an acceptable human rights record are, though, the relevant Security Council resolutions do not mention them per se as legal requirements for erasing the sanctions. Besides, it is out of question that the Iraqi regime would wish to take its chances with pluralistic democracy under the prevailing conditions.

*"The human rights file of Iraq remains the most formidable subject. If, as predicted, President Bill Clinton is reelected in November and persists in demanding a higher human rights record from Iraq as a sine qua non for lifting the 'U.N.' sanctions, the Iraqi regime might not be able to survive."*

Of course, the Clinton administration knows very well that an Iraqi movement in the direction of democracy is not on the cards. So what are the real objectives of Washington and London? There is one explanation for all the contradictions on the Iraqi file: both capitals do not wish to change the status quo in Iraq. They are happy to leave things where they are for reasons they know best. They seem to want to live with the reality in Baghdad.

The behind the scenes intentions could be political but they can also be economic. The Iraqi oil is certainly a factor in the equation. Iraq's continued paralysis is also an objective that both capitals appear to share. The end result is that the Iraqi people are in for misery and stagnation on the long haul unless Paris, Moscow and Beijing can have their way on Iraq and change the course of international diplomacy. The Arab World, on the other hand, is far from developing its own stance on Iraq as if it were not part of the Arab Nation. The future of Iraq is thus effectively left in the hands of the outside world by sheer Arab default.



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# Arab leaders in Cairo reaffirm commitment to peace based on U.N. resolutions

Following is an unofficial Agency France-Presse translation of the text of the final declaration adopted by the Arab summit in Cairo on Sunday:

"Conscious of their national responsibility, Arab leaders affirm that a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East necessitates:

— an Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Palestinian territories, including Arab Jerusalem, the exercising by the Palestinian people of their right to self-determination and the creation of an independent state with Arab Jerusalem as its capital, the Palestinian cause being the essence of the Israeli-Arab conflict,

— the total retreat by Israel from the Syrian Golan as far as the June 4, 1967 lines,

— a total and unconditional Israeli retreat from the western sector of the Bekaa plains and from southern Lebanon as far as the recognised international borders, all this with the implementation of U.N. resolutions 242, 338 and 425 and the principle of land for peace. On this basis we call for a resumption without delay of the negotiations on all tracks.

The commitment of Arab countries to achieving a just and comprehensive peace is a goal and a strategic choice which must be realised in line with international law and demands in return a similar commitment from Israel which it must confirm in a serious manner and without any deviations.

The peace process must result in the recovery of rights and the return of occupied lands, guaranteeing a balanced and fair security for all countries in the region in line with the principles agreed at the Madrid conference, notably that of land for peace and the letters of assurances given to the parties.

The leaders affirm that any transgression by Israel of these principles and the foundations on which the peace process has been built, any renunciation of the commitments and agreed obligations or any stalling in their implementation will lead to a reversal of the peace process, with all the resulting dangers, and will plunge the region back into the cycle of tension and force all the Arab countries to reconsider the steps taken towards Israel in the framework of the peace process. The Israeli government will alone bear full responsibility for this.

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They call on the secretary-general of the league to follow the Iranian occupation of these emirate islands and to submit a report at the next summit.

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## G-7 policy orthodoxy comes up short on jobs, growth

Whether the pendulum has swung too far in this direction is precisely what critics worry about.

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Since 1979, growth has slowed to 2.5 per cent. In the 1990s, the rate of output has dwindled still further to a mere 1.8 per cent. Meanwhile, the rate of unemployment in the bloc has risen from roughly five per cent in 1979 to seven

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**"Order cheesecake with shrimp cocktail on top instead of cherries. That way you get dessert and appetizer at one price."**

LADY WILL YOU PLEASE REMOVE YOUR HAT?

I CAN'T SEE!

WHY DON'T YOU GET A PILLOW?

SCUSE PLEASE!

EXIT

A PILLOW DOES HELP!

**Birthstone of June: Emerald  
— Citrine.**

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## Wind costs Johnson world 200-metre record

ATLANTA (R) — A burst of wind at the wrong time cost Michael Johnson athletics' oldest record Saturday as the world champion clocked 19.70 seconds in a blazing 200-metre semifinal at the U.S. Olympic trials.

The time was faster than Pietro Mennea's 1979 world record of 19.72 sec-

onds, but a wind of 2.7 metres per second — above the allowable 2.0 mps for record purposes — negated any chance of Johnson getting the record he earlier had promised would fall in Sunday's final.

Decathlete world record holder Dan O'Brien also flurried with a world record

as he scored 8,726 points to finally get a chance to go for Olympic gold, and 1992 Olympic bronze.

Medallist Jack Pierce ran the fourth-fastest 110-metre high hurdles ever, 12.94 seconds, in a stunning day at the track that will host next month's Atlanta Games.

## Celtics trade Montross to Dallas

BOSTON (R) — The Boston Celtics traded centre Eric Montross and the ninth overall selection in next week's NBA draft to the Dallas Mavericks for the sixth pick and a 1997 first-round selection.

"With this move, both teams immediately improve their standing," Celtics coach and general manager M.L. Carr said. "We hope to acquire two strong young athletes in this trade, players who fit into our system for the next few years."

"By getting Eric, the Mavericks fill a need in the middle and get a player who is eager to learn. It is always tough to trade a quality individual, and in Eric we had that."

The 7-foot (2.13 m), 270-pound (122 kg) Montross was limited by injuries last year and played in 61 games. He averaged 7.2 points and 5.8 rebounds in 23.5 minutes per

game, shooting 56.6 per cent.

Montross, 24, was a second team all-rookie selection in 1994-95 when he averaged 10 points and 7.3 rebounds.

Montross helped North Carolina to the 1993 national college championship.

"I'm very excited to come to Dallas," said Montross, who will wear his trademark double-zero uniform number. "I look forward to playing with the tremendous young talent that has been assembled here. We can go a long way with the nucleus that has been established here."

"I know how to win," continued Montross. "I played on a state championship in high school and I won a National Championship in college, and even though I did not win a lot the last two years, I was exposed to Celtic tradition."

## Camacho beats Duran by decision

ATLANTIC CITY (R) — Roberto Duran tried to make time stand still Saturday, but could not quite catch up with a younger, speedier Hector "Macho" Camacho.

Six days after his 45th birthday, Duran came into the ring a slim and trim 157 pounds (71 kg) and in his best fighting shape since he upset Iran Barkley seven years ago to win the middleweight crown here in Atlantic City.

But the 34-year-old Camacho flicked his faster jab and then ducked out of trouble to take an unpopular 12-round unanimous decision over the Panamanian.

"I fought a legend," said the Puerto Rican. "I was outboxing him and I kept moving. I fought just the way I wanted to."

Many in the crowd of nearly 5,000 booed the verdict by the three American judges. Tim Flegley scored it 115-113, Paul Vent 117-111

and Dana Depaolo 116-113.

Duran agreed with his fans.

"Here's what beat me, the judges beat me," said Duran. "The worst thing that could have happened was a draw."

There may not be any more fights for Duran, 37-12, a former champion in four different weight classes — lightweight, welterweight, junior middleweight and middleweight — in a career that started 29 years ago.

This bout was ostensibly for the lightly regarded vacant International Boxing Council middleweight crown, but in reality it was a fight to keep Duran's career going. Prior to the bout, Duran's manager Luis Decubas had acknowledged that if his fighter lost, he would advise him to call it quits.

But after the narrow margin of defeat and the doubts about the decision, the

Duran camp was quickly changing its mind.

"There is no question, we want a rematch," said Mike Acri, Duran's promoter.

Camacho, 60-3-1, a former super featherweight and lightweight champion, didn't dominate the fight like the 4-1 favourite he was listed as entering the ring.

On the undercard, former world heavyweight champion James "Buster" Douglas, the only man to beat Mike Tyson, started a comeback after six years out of the ring by stopping Tony La Rosa after three rounds of their scheduled 10-rounder.

"It was good to be back," the 36-year-old Douglas said of his layoff since losing the title to Evander Holyfield on October 25, 1990, eight months after knocking out Tyson.

But it was barely a fight as Douglas unloaded at will on the journeyman from Chicago, La Rosa, 24-6, who was bleeding from the nose by the end of the first round and in the third Douglas knocked him down with a vicious left uppercut.

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## Canada Day

Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein, the Canadian Embassy will be celebrating its National Day on Sunday, 30 June 1996, from 4:00 to 9:00 pm in the Queen Noor Forest located in the Yajuz area. Canadian citizens in Jordan are invited to attend a tree planting ceremony and barbecue all accompanied by live music.

Canadians interested in attending should bring their passport to be presented at the Queen Noor Forest access gate. A map and information sheet is available at the Embassy, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Sunday to Thursday.

## Fête du Canada

Sous le parrainage de Sa Majesté la Reine Noor Al Hussein, l'Ambassade du Canada célébrera sa fête nationale dimanche le 30 juin 1996 de 16h00 à 21h00. Pour célébrer cette journée, les citoyens canadiens résidant en Jordanie sont invités à se joindre à nous dans la forêt de la Reine située dans la région de Yajuz, lors d'une cérémonie où de nouveaux arbres seront plantés. Les activités comprendront également un barbecue, et le tout se déroulera au son d'un groupe de musiciens.

Les canadiens intéressés à participer à cette fête sont priés d'apporter leur passeport avec eux. Des renseignements supplémentaires ainsi qu'un plan sont disponibles à l'ambassade, du dimanche au jeudi de 09h00 à 16h00.

## Orioles beat Royals; Braves crush Giants in NL

BALTIMORE (R) — Rafael Palmeiro, Bobby Bonilla and Mark Smith homered in a five-run ninth inning to lead the Baltimore Orioles to a 5-3 victory over the Kansas City Royals Saturday.

Kansas City starter Tim Lincecum took a two-hitter and a 3-0 lead into the ninth but Palmeiro hit a two-run homer off Belcher to pull the Orioles within 3-2.

Bonilla greeted reliever Jeff Montgomery (1-5) with a home run to tie the game and Smith capped the inning with a two-out, two-run homer.

"I got carried away in the ninth with what I was keeping them off-balance with all day," said Belcher.

"I never feel home free with that club, not in this ballpark."

Montgomery had allowed just one homer in 28 appearances this season covering 41 1/3 innings before yielding the two to Bonilla and Smith. It was his third straight blown save. Scott Erickson (4-5) got his third complete game of the year. He allowed two earned runs on eight hits.

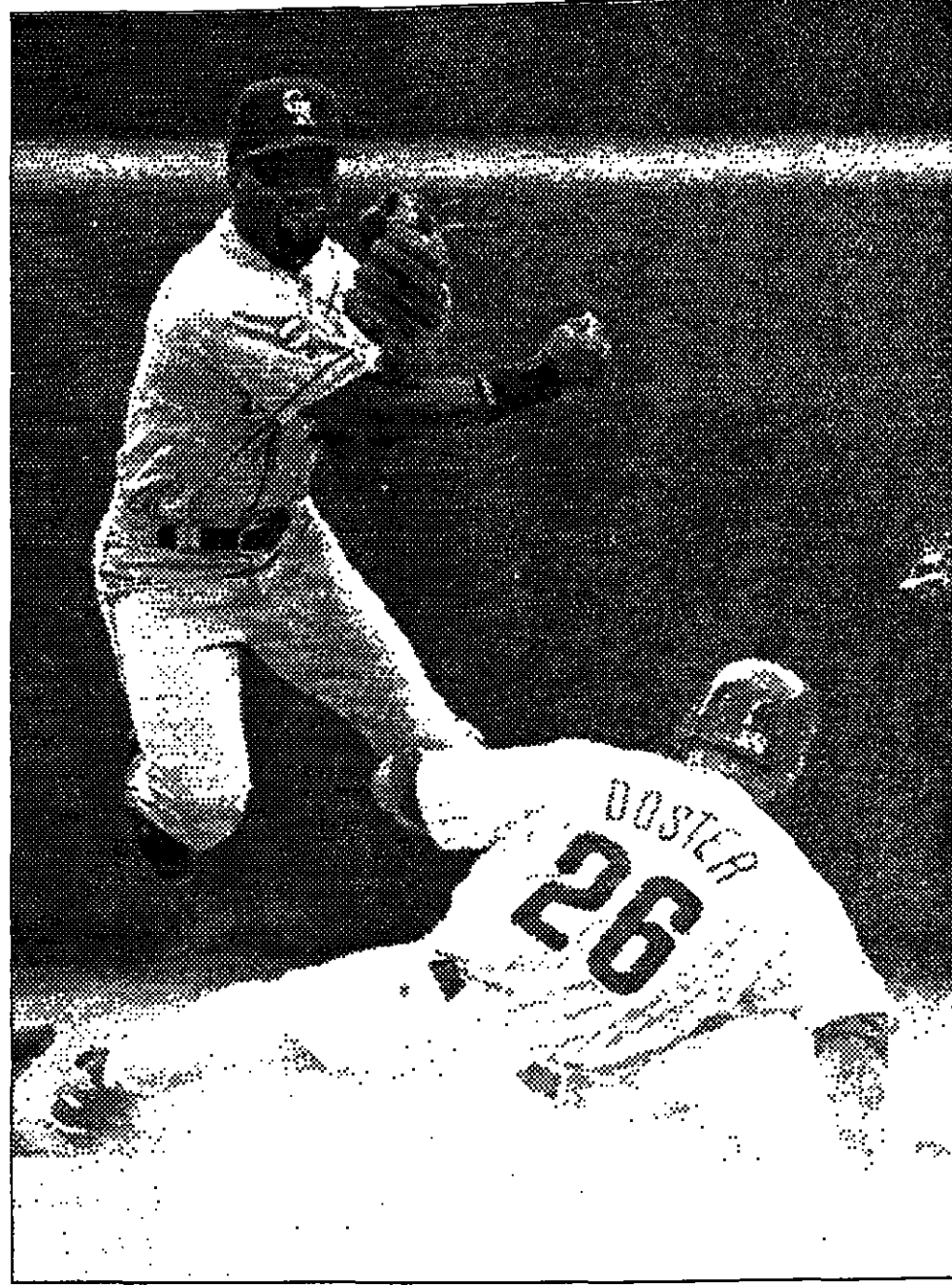
"Scotty pitched great," said Orioles manager Dave Johnson. Brady Anderson had the only hits off Belcher in the first eight innings — a leadoff double in the first and a one-out single in the sixth. With one out in the ninth, Roberto Alomar doubled and Palmeiro followed with his 17th home run of the year to knock out Belcher.

At Texas, Roger Pavlik pitched a six-hitter for his 10th win with just one loss, Ivan Rodriguez drove in four runs and Rusty Greer hit a three-run homer as the Western Division-leading Rangers defeated the Boston Red Sox 8-2.

Pavlik walked one and struck out seven for his Major League-leading fifth complete game. After allowing a two-run homer to Boston's Mike Stanley in the second, he retired 16 of the next 18 batters.

In Cleveland, Ruben Sierra homered twice and had three hits and three RBI as the Eastern-Division-leading New York Yankees continued their dominance of the Indians, 11-9.

The Yankees have won eight of 11 games with the defending American League champions and Central Division leaders this year, including all five at Jacobs Field.



Eric Young Colorado Rockies second baseman throws the ball to first for a double play. Philadelphia Phillies David Doster was forced out in the third inning of MBL action in Philadelphia on June 22 (Reuters photo)

The Yankees trailed 5-0 in the sixth, but scored a season-high nine runs off starter Dennis Martinez (8-5) and reliever Eric Plunk.

In Chicago, Bob Wells allowed two runs over 5 2/3 innings and Jay Buhner, Dan Wilson and Andy Sheets each collected two hits and an RBI as the Seattle Mariners handed the White Sox their eighth straight loss, 4-2. Wells (8-1) won his sixth straight decision and three relievers combined to allow one hit over 2 1/3 innings. Norm Charlton struck out the side in the ninth for his 12th save.

In Detroit, Brian Williams (1-4) pitched a four-hitter for his first career complete game and shutout and Travis Fryman and Chad Curtis each had two RBI as the Minnesota Twins won their second straight game, 6-0.

The Tigers shut out an opponent in consecutive games for the first time since September 30-October 1, 1990.

In Milwaukee, rookie Darin Erstad had a single and drove in three runs to lead the red-hot California Angels past the Brewers, 6-

4. California has won 12 of its last 14 games while the Brewers have dropped three of their last four decisions.

In Oakland, Jason Giambi's solo homer off Jeff Ware (0-4) started a four-run fifth inning as the Athletics edged the Toronto Blue Jays' five-game win streak, 8-4.

Bobby Chouinard (1-2) earned his first Major League win. Ed Sprague hit his 19th homer of the season and second in as many games for Toronto.

## Maddux back in form

Greg Maddux is back in form.

The four-time Cy Young Award winner allowed just two hits over eight scoreless innings and Chipper Jones drove in three runs as the Atlanta Braves won their fifth straight game, 6-0 over the San Francisco Giants Saturday.

Maddux (7-5) walked one, struck out four and induced 12 groundouts. He threw 61 of his 83 pitches for strikes.

"They hit me pretty good

but we scored a lot of runs," the modest Maddux said. "I got away with some mistakes tonight and I made some good pitches. I'm not trying to pitch like I pitched last year, I'm trying to feel good with my mechanics, feel good with my pitch selection."

After an uncharacteristic stretch of nine starts that included just one win, Maddux has won his last two starts in impressive fashion. The right-hander has allowed one run and six hits in 16 innings during the span, walking one and striking out 12.

In San Diego, Jose Hernandez, who had a career-best four hits, doubled and scored on a 16th-inning error by Padres first baseman Jason Thompson, and Brant Brown celebrated his 25th birthday by adding a two-run homer to finally secure a 9-6 win for the Chicago White Sox.

Brown, playing in place of injured Mark Grace, is batting .419 (13-for-31) in seven games.

The score was 4-4 from the fourth inning until the

12th, when Chicago went ahead 5-4 with a ryan sandberg pinch-hit single driving in Scott Servais, who had singled. Sandberg did not start due to a strained groin.

But John Flaherty hit a one-run homer for San Diego in the bottom of the 12th to tie the game back up.

In the 15th, Luis Gonzalez drove in Brian McRae with a sacrifice fly, but Chicago left the bases loaded, and it was costly when a rooney myers wild pitch plated Archi Cianfrocco, who had doubled, in the bottom of the inning.

Myers (1-1) got the win, Willie Blair (0-5) took the loss.

Sammy Sosa hit his 25th homer in the third for Chicago. Brian Johnson had a solo shot in the second for San Diego.

In Miami, pinch-hitter Dave Clark's RBI single snapped a scoreless tie in the 10th inning and Jeff King hit a three-run homer as the Pittsburgh Pirates handed the Florida Marlins a 4-1 defeat, their third extra-inning loss of the week.

The four runs snapped a string of 23 innings without a run for Pittsburgh.

Pirates reliever Dan Plesac (3-1) earned the win with two perfect innings, striking out two. Francisco Cordova allowed a run in the bottom of the 10th, when Terry Pendleton singled in Gary Sheffield. Reliever Yordis Perez (2-2) took the loss.

In Philadelphia, J.R. Phillips hit a pinch-hit three-run homer to tie the game in the sixth and Mike Benjamin drew a bases-loaded walk in the seventh for the go-ahead run as the Phillies edged the Colorado Rockies, 5-4.

In Los Angeles, Ramon Martinez threw a seven-hit shutout and Mike Piazza homered in the first inning as the Dodgers snuffed a two-game losing streak with a 3-0 victory over the Houston Astros.

In New York, Mark Clark allowed two runs in eight innings and Alex Ochoa and Butch Huskey drove in all the Mets' runs in a 5-2 victory over the Cincinnati Reds.

Clark (7-6) allowed four hits and one walk with four strikeouts for his sixth win in his last seven decisions. John Franco worked a 1-2-3 ninth to collect his 16th save for the Mets, who have won four of their last six.

Ex-Met Pete Schourek (4-5) took the loss.

Ochoa, playing in his first game this season after being recalled Friday, had a sacrifice fly and an RBI single for his first two Major League RBIs. Huskey had a one-run single and a two-run double.

In Montreal, Willie McGee had a pair of two-run singles and Mike Morgan (2-1) pitched eight solid innings to lead the St. Louis Cardinals to a 9-4 triumph over the Expos.

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♠ K J 7 6 5  
♥ J 10 4  
♦ 4  
♣ J 7 2

WEST EAST  
♠ A 5 4 ♠ 9 2  
♥ 8 3 ♥ 7 5 2  
♦ 8 2 ♦ Q 10 9 8 7  
♣ A 10 8 6 5 3 ♣ K 9 4

SOUTH  
♠ Q 10 8  
♥ A K Q 8 6  
♦ A K J 6 5  
♣ Void

The bidding:  
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST  
1♣ Pass 3♣ Pass  
3♦ Pass 3♠ Pass  
3♠ Pass 3♠ Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠

Declarer's play is often deter-

mined by the defense. This hand, from a team match, illustrates the point.

At both tables the final contract was six hearts, reached on identical auctions. At neither table did North consider the holding worth two forward-going bids, so both Norths elected to raise to two hearts rather than respond one spade. When South then made an extraordinary game try of three diamonds, North elected to show spade values so to show spade values so both Souths considered the holding good enough to contract for 12 tricks in hearts.

At the first table West led the ace of clubs. Declarer ruffed a diamond. West was forced to allow a spade to the queen to hold, otherwise the whole suit would be set up, and declarer ruffed another diamond as West showed out, discarding a club.

At the other table a trump was led. With several lines to choose from, declarer led a diamond and floored the jack. When that held, two diamond ruffs in dummy, with the queen of spades and a club ruff furnishing entries to the closed hand, allowed declarer to draw trumps and set up a second spade as the fulfilling trick.

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John Travolta and Gene Hackman in  
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Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

PLAZA  
Gerard Depardieu in  
**My Father the Hero**  
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

CONCORD  
\*Jodi Foster in **Nell**  
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30  
CONCORD "2"  
\*The Bridges of Madison County  
Shows: 6, 8:15, 10:30  
\*Batman Forever  
Shows: 3:30 only

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## Wimbledon Preview

### Sampras and Graf defend titles

LONDON (R) — Pete Sampras and Steffi Graf reign as the king and queen of Wimbledon but there are pretenders ready to threaten their occupancy of the thrones this year.

And with both bringing uncertain form into Monday's start of the championships, the possibility is that both could be deposed over the next fortnight.

Enter Boris Becker and Monica Seles, heir and heiress apparent to the champions and looking to be near the top of their respective games just in time to make runs at the titles.

Sampras's efforts to win the French Open for the first time took a heavy toll of the American, who went home a shattered man after a series of hard-won victories before a straight-set semifinal defeat by eventual champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov.

His departure deprived him of valuable match practice on grass at the Queen's Club in London, which he used as a springboard to his third successive title last year.

This time he skipped that event, returning to his Florida residence to rest his weary frame and reassemble his mental resources for the assault on a fourth straight Wimbledon title.

He returned to London last week and has been practicing assiduously ever since. But his form remained questionable as he was beaten 6-2 7-5 by compatriot Malivai Washington on Saturday in the final of an exhibition event at a private London club.

The death early last month of his coach, Tim Gullikson, is still occupying Sampras's mind, though the incentive to win one for his mentor and close friend undoubtedly helped him at the French.

His opening test on the centre court on Monday could be a tough one for Sampras. He faces countryman Richey Reneberg, who won one grass court event and reached the semifinals of another over the past two weekends. Reneberg has beaten Sampras twice, on other surfaces.

If Sampras wins that one, he should then confront powerful Australian teenager Mark Philippoussis, who beat him in straight sets at the Australian open in January.

With Sampras away, Becker took the opportunity at Queen's to show that the thigh injury which forced him out of the French was a mixed blessing, costing him what may have been a gift-edged chance to finally win a title on clay but leaving him fresh for the grass court.

He won the event without dropping a set and looked thoroughly impressive as he celebrated the 11th anniversary of his first-ever grass court title as a 17-year-old in 1985, when he went on to add the first of his three Wimbledon crowns three weeks later.

Now 28, he is hungry to do so again and he has a gentle draw in the early stages that should leave him in fine fettle for the tougher tests in the second week.

There are other contenders, like Croatian Goran Ivanisevic, a finalist two years ago and a semifinalist last year.

Sampras beat him both times and they could meet again, this time in the quarter-final while French Open champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov is versatile enough to have a chance of adding the Wimbledon crown.

Becker's fellow German Graf was, like Sampras, forced to curtail her planned preparations for Wimbledon because of a knee injury that prevented her from playing at Eastbourne, the final pre-Wimbledon event for women.

She, too, begins her defence gun-shy but at least she has the advantage of a relatively undemanding draw to take her towards the bigger hurdles ahead.

Her first serious opposition should come in the fourth round from swiss teenager Martina Hingis and there is the prospect of a quarter-final against Jana Novotna, the Czech who almost beat her in the 1993 final.

Seles, meanwhile, like Becker took advantage of the absence of her greatest adversary to breeze through the Eastbourne event without losing a set, crushing American Mary Joe Fernandez 6-0 6-2 in Saturday's final.

It was her first grass court title and came four years after her last appearance at Wimbledon in 1992, when she bowed 6-2 6-1 to Graf in the final.

If both reach the final this time, the outcome looks certain to be far closer.

The Spaniards, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and 1994 winner Conchita Martinez, are the best of the rest, along with Novotna, probably the best grass court player in the field.



Dutch Clarence Seedorf reacts after failing to score against France in the European Soccer Championships quarter finals in Liverpool. Seedorf missed a penalty during the shoot out. The French won in a penalty shootout 5-4 (Reuters photo)

### We were a little lucky to win — Jacquet

LIVERPOOL (R) — French manager Aime Jacquet conceded his side had been somewhat fortunate to beat the Netherlands 5-4 on penalties Sunday to reach the Euro 96 semifinals and commiserated with his Dutch counterpart.

"Soccer is like that. I'm not sure we deserved to win but we gave all we could. It's fabulous to have qualified," he said after his side had withstood a Dutch assault for much of the second half of a below-par quarter-final.

"I have very friendly thoughts towards (Dutch manager Guus) Hiddink, because he must be feeling a bit sad."

Jacquet said the side would miss injured striker Christophe Dugarry, ruled out of the rest of the tournament with a serious knee injury, but stressed the squad was strong enough to cope.

The Dutch hit the woodwork during the 0-0 draw and dominated much of the second half but their fate was sealed when Clarence Seedorf hit his penalty kick straight at French keeper Bernard Lama.

"I hadn't specially studied how to save penalties from Seedorf, but sometimes you don't have to move all that much," said Lama, who was mobbed by his team mates after the game.

The French converted all their spot kicks,

even though Jacquet said the shoot-out had come as a surprise.

"We weren't expecting penalties and we had not prepared for them at all during training," he said, adding that his priority now was to help the players recover from their exertions.

"Fatigue is playing more and more of a role as we progress," he said, a point echoed by captain Didier Deschamps. "Giving 100 per cent is difficult if you're playing every three days. Now we have to recover as best we can," he said.

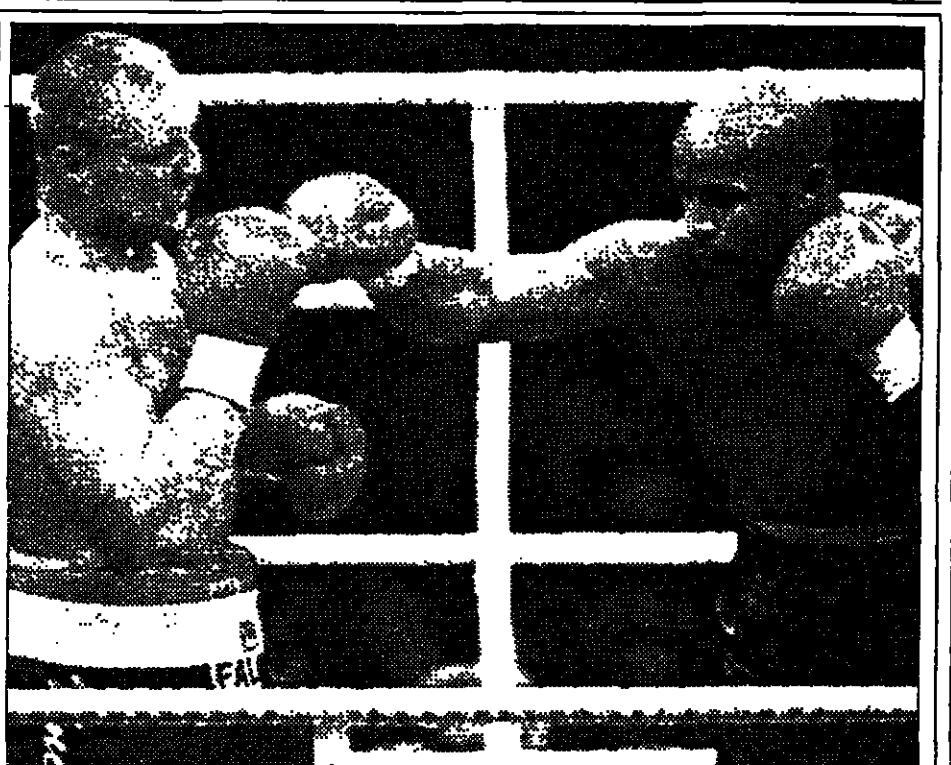
"I think we have achieved everything we wanted to before the tournament but well try to progress further."

Dutch substitute Youri Mulder said his team was upset to have lost a game they dominated in large measure.

"We knew we didn't play badly and it is very frustrating to lose on penalties. And to know that we failed to make the semifinal in this way makes the disappointment even greater," he told reporters.

Huddink praised his players for the way they had raised after losing their last match 4-1 to England, but could not hide his feelings.

"I am disappointed because we came very close...We played better than France, but didn't convert the chances we had."



Michael Moorer of the United States (right) hits German Axel Schulz during the IBF (International Boxing Federation) world heavyweight title fight in Dortmund, June 22. Moorer beat Schulz on a split points decision over 12 rounds (Reuters photo)

## EURO 96

### Germany lose Klinsmann on way to England showdown

MANCHESTER (AFP) — Jurgen Klinsmann will almost certainly miss the rest of the European Championships after tearing a muscle during Germany's acrimonious 2-1 win over 10-man Croatia Sunday.

The Germans now face England in Wednesday's semi-final at Wembley but they will be without Klinsmann and fellow striker Fredi Bobic, who dislocated his shoulder during a bruising clash with the Croats.

"I have never had an injury of this nature before but I am told by our medical experts that they generally take 10 days to heal," said a near-tearful Klinsmann.

"I felt a pain in my right calf muscle after receiving a number of fouls and heavy challenges at the start of the game."

"I tried to continue but I could not sprint and I knew it was useless to carry on. It is as simple as that," said Klinsmann who departed shortly before half-time.

The absence of Klinsmann, widely regarded as the best centre-forward in the world, is a major blow for the Germans who do not have another recognised striker in their squad.

"Clearly, losing Bobic and Klinsmann is a very big blow for us," said German coach Bertie Vogts.

"But I was surprised and delighted by the spirit of my team who responded superbly to some very provocative play by the Croats," he added.

Earlier Klinsmann had been booked for chopping down Goran Vlaovic with a ferocity that warned of worse things to come in what was comfortably the ugliest match of the tournament.

The violence of the encounter made a mockery of UEFA's fair play initiative and raised a number of questions about the lenient Swedish referee Leif Sundell.

With a place in the last four at stake, the tensions got the better of the Croats in particular, in a game littered with bad, often dangerous challenges as well as a number of ugly off-the-ball incidents.

### Czechs move to semis

BIRMINGHAM (R) — Karel Poborsky scored with a delightfully executed 53rd minute chip to give the Czech Republic a shock 1-0 win over Portugal Sunday and a place in the Euro 96 semifinals.

But the Czechs, who finished a disappointing, scrappy quarter-final with only 10 men, will face France on Wednesday without four regular first team players who were all shown yellow cards by over-zealous German referee Hellmut Krug.

Defenders Radek Latal, sent off after 82 minutes, and Jan Suchoparek, plus forwards Pavel Kuka and Radek Bejbi will all miss the Old Trafford clash. All were penalised for largely trivial offences.

In all, Krug flashed a tournament record-equalling nine yellow cards and one red for Latal who was dismissed for a clumsy rather than a harsh challenge on Portuguese midfielder Dimas.

The Croats were reduced to 10 men after Igor Stimac was dismissed after 56 minutes for a second bookable offence and they were lucky not to be depleted further with Zvonimir Boban, in particular, the beneficiary of some generous refereeing.

After two goalless quarter-finals the day before, it was ironic that the first goal of the stage — after 261 minutes of play — should come from the penalty spot.

The breakthrough came for tournament favourites Germany on 21 minutes following a fatal mistake from the experienced Nikola Jerkan.

The 31-year-old Real Oviedo player handled the ball on the right side of the area and though he was under pressure from German sweeper Matthias Sammer, there was little threat to goal when he thrust out his hand.

The Swedish referee immediately pointed to the spot for Klinsmann to bury his third goal of the championships low to the right of Drazen Ladice.

But German joy at the goal was tempered by Klinsmann's departure shortly before the interval.

The Croats drew level six minutes after the break through goal machine Sukan, who netted his 21st goal in 23 appearances to the delight of their small group of fans as well as all the Englishmen in the ground.

Nikola Jerkovic disposed substitute Freund on

the edge of the area, allowing Sukan, who joins Real Madrid from Seville next season, to burst into the box and round Kopke for his third goal of the tournament.

"I was happy to score a goal but we are all very sad especially for the Croatian people at home but I think the referee gave too many decisions in Germany's favour," said Sukan.

But the joy of Sukan's equaliser quickly turned to disaster for the Croats when their combative centre back Stimac was sent off after chopping down Mehmet Scholl on the halfway mark.

There was worst to follow as the Germans immediately exploited their numerical superiority to regain the lead.

Markus Babel, back from suspension, crossed from the right for man-of-the-match Matthias Sammer who won an aerial challenge with Bilic, heading the ball down before crashing home Germany's winner from close range.

The Croats had the better of the early exchanges and felt they deserved a penalty for obstruction when Sukan clashed with Thomas Helmer ten minutes from the interval. But television replays appeared to vindicate the referee's decision to wave play on, showing that the topscoring Croatian had turned into the German defender rather than vice-versa.

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If you live in Amman and would like more information, contact:

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## Mubarak and Bashir agree to work together against terrorism

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak agreed with his Sudanese counterpart Omar Al Bashir to work together against terrorism on Sunday almost a year to the day since Cairo accused Khartoum of backing an attempt to kill Mr. Mubarak.

Mr. Mubarak and Lieutenant-General Bashir met on the second and final day of the landmark Arab summit in Cairo.

"The meeting was positive to a certain extent," Mr. Mubarak told journalists as he left the five-star hotel near Cairo airport where the two leaders met.

"We have agreed that we will cooperate to deal with all forms of terrorism," Gen. Bashir said, adding that the two leaders had reached an accord on a "mechanism" to work out security issues.

"Officials from Egypt and Sudan will be in permanent contact to exchange information and guarantee the security of the two countries," Gen. Bashir said after the meeting, their first since 1994 when they met on the sidelines of an African summit.

Relations between Sudan and Egypt have been tense since Cairo accused Khartoum of supporting the

failed attempt to kill Mr. Mubarak in Addis Ababa on June 26.

Sudan came under U.N. diplomatic sanctions, with Egypt's support, in May for failing to hand over to Ethiopia the three Egyptian militants accused in the attack.

Cairo has also accused Khartoum of giving arms, financing and training to militants waging a violent anti-government campaign in Egypt which has left over 1,020 dead since 1992.

Gen. Bashir said he filled Mr. Mubarak in on "all the measures we have taken to hunt down and arrest" the three fugitives, adding that "security officials from both countries will verify these measures."

"Since the beginning we have worked so that there would be no activity against Egypt coming from Sudan," he said.

Although no future meeting between the two leaders was settled on, "contacts will continue whether by telephone or by direct talks," Gen. Bashir said.

"There is a good chance for reconciliation" between the two countries, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said, adding, "it was only natural that the two leaders meet at the Arab summit."

Sudanese Foreign

Minister Ali Osman Taha, quoted by the Egyptian weekly Rose Al Yousef on Sunday, said the two countries' interior ministers had signed late last week an agreement to exchange information "to help extradition of those suspected of attacking the countries' security."

He said Khartoum had given Cairo "a document on the three Egyptians implicated in the attack on Mubarak and their movements in Sudanese territory, where officials have redoubled their search for them."

"According to certain information, one of them is still in Sudan," Mr. Taha said, adding that the new accord "will permit for continued and intensive cooperation to arrest the accused if they are still in Sudan."

But Mr. Musa made no mention of the signing of an extradition agreement, and implied that Egypt would only be satisfied when Sudan handed over the three suspects.

Egypt expelled three Sudanese diplomats from Cairo after the U.N. slapped diplomatic sanctions on Sudan. But Cairo has come out against stronger economic or arms embargos against its southern neighbour.

## Israeli airline starts Amman flights

By Ghalia Ahl  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The first El Al flight arrived in Jordan Sunday inaugurating its route between Jordan and Israel in implementation of the transport agreement the two countries signed in January under the October 1994 peace treaty.

On board the Boeing 757 was Israeli Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy, who is the first Israeli cabinet member to visit Jordan since the formation of the Likud led government last week.

The minister was accompanied by 180 Israeli officials and businessmen and was received by Minister of Transport Nasser Lawzi who inaugurated the first Royal Wings flight to Tel Aviv on April 7.

The Israeli airline Arkia, operating under El Al, would be flying five weekly flights to Jordan while the Royal Wings, which is a company affiliated with

Royal Jordanian (RJ), started operating a similar number of flights to Tel Aviv since April. The offices of El Al are scheduled to be officially opened today, Monday.

Joseph Ciechanover, chairman of the board of El Al, said the company has signed commercial agreements with RJ to allow travellers to fly El Al on one way and Royal Jordanian on the return flight.

Mr. Levy said the new Israeli government will follow the same course of the previous Labour-led government in implementing the transport agreement, which he described as an important means of consolidating trade cooperation between the two countries.

Rafi Harlev, president of El Al, said "I believe in the coming year we will see a major increase in the number of tourists visiting both Israel and Jordan. It's important for us to take advantage of peace between us, and to develop regional

tourism and to promote travelling to this part of the world."

In a joint press conference with Mr. Levy, Mr. Lawzi said the transport agreement is still new and will be reviewed regularly to take note of any developments in the aviation industry.

Mr. Lawzi had said during his trip to Tel Aviv to inaugurate the Royal Wings offices there that Jordan and Israel will review the transport agreement every six months in order to introduce amendments that will be satisfactory to both sides.

Responding to a question on Israel's commitment to peace in light of the hard-line stands of the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Mr. Levy said Israel remains committed to pursuing the peace process with all its Arab neighbours.

"We hope this historic flight will contribute to consolidating peace and reinforcing relations between

our two countries," said Mr. Levy.

The Israeli minister said his government was determined to implement all the accords which his country signed with Jordan.

Mr. Lawzi said the inauguration of El Al flight showed that efforts are being exerted by Jordan and Israel "to apply the accords signed by the two countries, especially in the field of transport."

He said while the Israeli national flag carrier will be competing with RJ on flights to North America due to the cheaper rates it offers, the Jordanian air carrier will have the advantage over El Al on flights to the Far East in light of its cheaper rates.

Jordan and Israel opened their borders before private vehicles in April. Bus services between major cities in the two countries started on June 9.

The two countries will open their borders to the flow of goods on June 26.



## Queen rejects Diana in 'queen of hearts' role

LONDON (AFP) — Buckingham Palace turned down offers by Princess Diana to visit victims of the Dunblane school massacre and of the recent IRA bomb blast in Manchester, the Sunday Times reported. The paper quoted friends of the Princess of Wales as saying Princess Diana had been upset that her role of "queen of hearts" had been rejected. After the murder of 16 children by a crazed gunman in the Scottish town of Dunblane in March, Princess Diana reportedly telephoned to Queen Elizabeth II, her mother-in-law to say she was ready to go in person to comfort the victims of the tragedy. The queen however decided to go herself accompanied by her daughter Princess Anne. Last week, after the IRA bomb attack which wounded 206 people in Manchester, Princess Diana again hoped to be allowed to visit the casualties on behalf of the royal family, her friends said. But the Duchess of Kent went instead. Members of the princess's entourage said that she would have given a higher profile to the occasion. "It's a shame that her abilities in this area have not been fully exploited," the paper quoted one friend as saying. According to the paper she was also bitter that her estranged husband, Prince Charles, rather than herself, was sent to visit the victims of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) bomb which killed two people in February in the Docklands area of London.

## Hong Kong flights delayed as jet evacuated

HONG KONG (R) — Passengers scrambled to evacuate a Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd. aircraft Sunday, sliding down escape chutes on to the airport runway as fire tenders ringed the jet. A spokesman for Hong Kong's Kai Tak Airport said he had no information on the cause of the emergency which disrupted flights for about an hour. One witness said there was talk of a fire, but no smoke was observed by Reuters witnesses. Another said a fire alarm had sounded in the cargo section. Cathay Pacific executives were not immediately available for comment. Hong Kong Radio said the aircraft carrying 307 people had arrived from Thailand. Three people were reported injured, the radio said.

## British lottery gives funds to overseas charities

LONDON (R) — Britain's National Lottery said it will give £25 million (\$39 million) to charities working overseas but denied it was compensating for cuts in the government aid budget. The announcement marked a departure in policy for the privately-run lottery that previously donated only to projects in Britain. "All the money the National Lottery gives at home or abroad is additional. It does not replace statutory or other funding," said a spokeswoman for the board that allocates lottery funds. Opposition parties are adamant that funds raised by the National Lottery, set up in late 1994, should not be used to replace government spending. Britain announced in November a 5.4 per cent cut in its aid budget this year to £2.15 billion from £2.23 billion last year. Charities, which have complained that donations have fallen since the lottery was set up, said the money was not enough.

## Ekeus wins breakthrough with Iraq on arms details

MANAMA (AFP) — U.N. envoy Rolf Ekeus returned to New York on Sunday saying he won a "major breakthrough" with Iraq which surrendered new files on its illegal arms programmes and pledged to grant total access to military bases.

Mr. Ekeus was sent to Baghdad on Wednesday with a U.N. Security Council mandate to urge Iraq to lift a ban on inspections of Republican Guard bases suspected of harbouring weapons material banned since the 1991 Gulf war.

"I believe that we have had a major breakthrough," Mr. Ekeus told reporters on arriving in Bahrain Saturday after four days of talks with Iraqi officials, including Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz. Iraq agreed to grant "immediate, complete and unconditional access" to all suspected weapons sites and submitted what it called "final documents" on its biological, chemical and missile programmes, Mr. Ekeus said.

The U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) charged with dismantling Iraq's weapons programmes would still have to verify if

the documents were final but Mr. Ekeus described them as "important."

Mr. Ekeus, who is UNSCOM chairman, said Iraq offered to submit a report by the end of June which "is expected to contain full, complete and final declaration on all its weapons programmes."

He added it is possible Iraq might also furnish a report on its nuclear programme.

The United Nations has rejected previous declarations which Iraq described as final.

Mr. Ekeus told the Arab newspaper Al Sharq Al Awsat last week that Iraq was still a threat to the region because it was believed to have at least six ballistic missiles and their launchers.

The former Swedish diplomat travelled to Baghdad on Wednesday with Russian ballistic weapons expert Nikita Smidovich, whose team had been barred from entering five Republican Guard bases in and around Baghdad since June 11.

Last week Mr. Ekeus withdrew the 54-member team and no date has been given for its return to Baghdad.

## Report: Exiles plotting overthrow of Saddam

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A group of Iraqi exiles in Jordan are bidding to overthrow President Saddam Hussein with the aid of the U.S. intelligence service, the CIA, the Washington Post reported Sunday.

The group, Iraqi National Accord, is plotting a coup by military leaders in the Iraqi president's entourage, the newspaper said.

The group reportedly has a radio station capable of transmitting to all Iraqi territory and military communications equipment concealed in an Iraqi depot to maintain contact with army personnel.

The Post, citing U.S. and Saudi Arabian officials as well as the Iraqi exiles, said the group had helped several high-ranking Iraqi officers to defect, including former ground forces commander General Nizar Khazraji, who reached Jordan in March.

"We think any uprising should have as its very centre the armed forces," the group's leader Ayad Alawi told the Post.

"We don't preach civil war. On the contrary, we preach controlled, coordinated military uprising supported by the people that would not allow itself to go into acts of revenge or chaos," said Mr. Alawi, a former confidant of President Saddam who fled to London in 1971.

The Post said U.S. President Bill Clinton authorised a \$6 million payment to the group in January to fund its activities. It said similar sums were paid by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other Arab countries.

According to the Post, however, the group's chances of success are limited as the Iraqi opposition is so divided.

## Palestinian council to study draft constitution

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A draft Palestinian constitution, which calls for the creation of an independent state with its capital in East Jerusalem, maps out a system of government more democratic than that in most Arab states.

But some Palestinian legislators suggested Sunday that they are concerned about loopholes that could enable authorities to deny basic liberties by claiming national security is in danger.

"We will not approve any document which does not guarantee the basic rights of the Palestinian people — economic, political, freedom of opinion and democracy," said Rafik Nasseh, a council member from the West Bank town of Hebron.

Palestinian legislators hope to vote on the proposed constitution — known formally as the Basic Law for the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in the transitional period — by the end of next month.

Rawya Shawa, a council member from Gaza City, said its key element is the call for an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza, territories where the Palestinians have gained limited autonomy in recent years.

The new right-wing Israeli government is committed to preventing a full state. Its policy guidelines say autonomy should be the basis for a permanent Israeli-Palestinian peace deal.

The draft constitution also affirms that the Palestinians' capital will be East Jerusalem, which Israel seized and annexed in 1967 and has since ringed with Jewish neighbourhoods. Israel says the entire city must remain its undivided capital.

A state with its capital in Jerusalem "is one of our basic principles. Without it, the

constitution will only be an empty law," Ms. Shawa said. Ms. Shawa said she was encouraged by democratic principles outlined in the draft: it promises rule of law and freedom of expression and prohibits discrimination based on sex, race, language or religion. But she added that the Palestinian council must "read between the lines and get expert opinions from legal consultants."

One item of possible controversy is a clause guaranteeing freedom of opinion and prohibiting press censorship "unless it endangers the security of the state."

Critics fear that such a condition could be used to suppress dissent. They point to occasional arrests by autonomous authorities of Yasser Arafat's critics — such as the detention of human rights activist Eyad Sarraj two weeks ago.

Court gets no response

The Palestinian attorney-general has failed to respond to a supreme court request to justify the detention of Dr. Sarraj, a lawyer said Sunday.

Last week, the Gaza City court gave Attorney-General Khaled Kidra five days to explain why Dr. Sarraj, a leading critic of Mr. Arafat, was under arrest. The court said that if dissatisfied with the explanation it might order the release of Dr. Sarraj, who was detained two weeks ago.

## Qadhafi says Arafat assured him on liberation of Palestine

CAIRO (AFP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi said Sunday he met with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on the sidelines of an Arab summit here after their relations soured following the mass expulsions of Palestinians from Libya.

Colonel Qadhafi said Mr. Arafat had "given assurances over the position of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and that he had been reassured on the question of the liberation of Palestine."

He also called on the Palestinian people living in other Arab countries to take "an olive branch" and march back to their territories.

The meeting was confirmed by Palestinian officials.

Col. Qadhafi, who defied the U.N. air embargo against Libya by flying into Cairo Saturday and on again later Sunday, also said he believed the Lockerbie crisis would be solved after a solution to the Palestinian issue.

"We have no disagreements with the United States or Europe. The current problems are due to our support of the Palestinian cause and if

the Palestinian problem is solved we will no longer have a problem with the United States, Europe or the Jews," Col. Qadhafi said at a press conference.

Arab leaders meanwhile threatened to break the air embargo imposed on Libya since 1992 over the Lockerbie bombing if no steps are taken to end its crisis with the West.

"Arab leaders call for the lifting of sanctions imposed on Libya, especially since their continuation could push Arab countries to examine ways to prevent more harm to the Libyan people," a final statement to Cairo's Arab summit said (see page 7).

The U.N. slapped sanctions on Libya for failing to hand over to the U.S. or Britain two Libyans accused of involvement in the 1988 bombing of an American jet over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 270 people.

The Libyan leader also met with Crown Prince of Kuwait Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah despite frosty relations between their two countries, the state news agency MENA said.

Relations between Libya

and Kuwait deteriorated in past weeks after Col. Qadhafi said in a speech at Cairo University that "Kuwait should never have got independence if it can't even defend itself."

The statement struck a nerve with Kuwait with its reference to the 1990 Iraqi invasion of the emirate.

Throughout the two-day summit, called to forge a unified front on the peace process following the election of a new right-wing Israeli government, Col. Qadhafi has repeatedly distanced himself from other Arab leaders with his eccentric behaviour (see page 2).

He ostentatiously refused to have anything to do with an "imperialist" bottle of Coca Cola, and chided fellow Arab leaders for their "laziness", urging them to follow more closely the example set by Libya.

And he alone out of the delegates shunned the official Mercedes cars provided by Egypt to ferry their guests around Cairo, preferring instead a huge white six-door stretch limousine complete with television and other accessories.

## Deposed Qatari emir's exit eases Gulf tension

DUBAI (R) — The deposed emir of Qatar flew to London on Sunday, removing for a while at least a source of tension that has bedevilled relations between the two Gulf Arab allies for six months, diplomats and analysts said.

Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani left the United Arab Emirates' capital Abu Dhabi still determined to reclaim the Qatari throne from his eldest son.

He was seen off at the airport by Sheikh Sultan Ben Zayed Al Nahayan, deputy prime minister of the UAE, the official news agency WAM reported.

WAM said he was headed to Europe on a personal visit that would last several days.

Sheikh Khalifa's son, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, seized power in a bloodless palace coup a year ago while his father was on holiday in Switzerland.

The coup was the biggest political shake-up in the small Gulf state, whose oil production gives it some of the world's highest average incomes. Since Sheikh Khalifa seized power in a similar fashion in 1972,

entourage of advisers and bodyguards at a luxury hotel, unleashing political attacks on what one of his aides termed "the temporary regime" in Doha.

The old emir has travelled widely throughout the region rallying support for his claim as Qatar's legitimate ruler and he has been feted with honours usually reserved for a ruling head of state.

But while the UAE authorities faultlessly accorded him all the niceties of protocol, diplomats said his presence in Abu Dhabi has been an embarrassment and a source of tension in relations between the two Gulf Cooperation Council partners.

An Abu Dhabi source said Sheikh Khalifa was welcomed to stay as a matter of Gulf hospitality to an old man and to his son. "It was not a political act," he said.

"He was never expected to spend the entire summer in the Gulf," a Middle East analyst said. "Now that he's gone somewhere cooler, getting back again could be difficult. For the time being, at least, things should take a turn for the better between Abu Dhabi and Doha."

## 8 killed in Turkish attacks

ANKARA (Agencies) — Eight people were killed and 19 were wounded in two armed attacks Saturday night in Istanbul and the southeastern town of Diyarbakir, Turkish television reported.

Seven people were killed and 15 wounded in the Diyarbakir attack which the authorities blamed on Kurdish separatist rebels.

The attackers opened fire on about 100 people dining at an open-air restaurant, according to an eyewitness.

Three children and a pregnant woman were among the dead, the witness, Savas Donmez said. In Istanbul, a "terrorist" was killed and four policemen were wounded when police came under attack while on patrol near a building housing offices of the True Path Party of former Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, reports said. Five people, including three women, opened fire on the police car, wounding two of the men.

The police returned fire killing one woman. Two more policemen were wounded in the shootout which followed.

## Yilmaz: Islamists no threat to ties with EU

ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz said Sunday that the possibility of the pro-Islamic Welfare Party taking part in a coalition government would pose no threats to Turkey's ties with the European Union (EU).

"In Turkey, ties with the EU is a state policy on which there is a consensus. Even if the Welfare Party comes to power in a coalition with another party, those ties will not suffer," Mr. Yilmaz told Turkish journalists in Florence.

Mr. Yilmaz had a working dinner with EU leaders in the Italian city on Saturday evening, including French President Jacques Chirac, Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi and Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar, to discuss Turkish-EU relations.

The dinner came after the EU summit hosted by the EU's outgoing president Italy.

"I told the leaders that secularism has a well-rooted past in Turkey and that there will be no radical changes in policies regarding the West under any government," Mr. Yilmaz said, according to the Anatolia news agency.

Several European countries are concerned over the possibility of deteriorating ties with Turkey should Welfare come to power.

Welfare leader Necmettin Erbakan lambasted the West in speeches during the Turkish general election campaign last December, which made his party the largest in parliament.

At the time he even threatened to scrap a customs union between Turkey and the EU.

However, after the elections Mr. Erbakan softened his line considerably, saying if his party came to power, he would modify only parts of the customs union accord.

Mr. Erbakan says he is ready to set up an alliance with either Tansu Ciller's True Path Party or Mr. Yilmaz's Motherland Party, or even both if the others are willing.

He is due to have a third round of talks on forming a coalition with Ms. Ciller on Tuesday.

Months of internal dissent led to the break-up of Mr. Yilmaz's conservative coalition with Ms. Ciller, a marriage which had been founded largely on both parties' desire to keep Welfare out of government. Mr. Yilmaz said that during his talks with the European leaders he had also urged them to find out a way to overcome obstructions raised by Turkey's arch rival Greece regarding the customs union's functioning.

According to the customs union accord, which took effect this year, the EU would provide Turkey with financial assistance worth \$500 million to compensate for Ankara's losses stemming from the lifting of taxes on goods imported from the EU.

However, Greece blocked all EU aid to Turkey after the two countries came to the brink of war in January over the sovereignty of a handful of rocky islets in the Aegean Sea.